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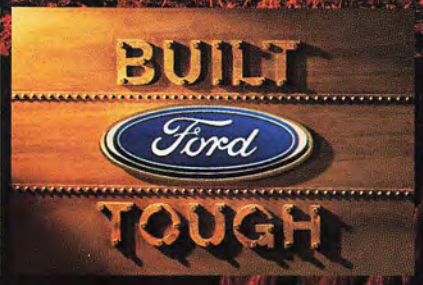

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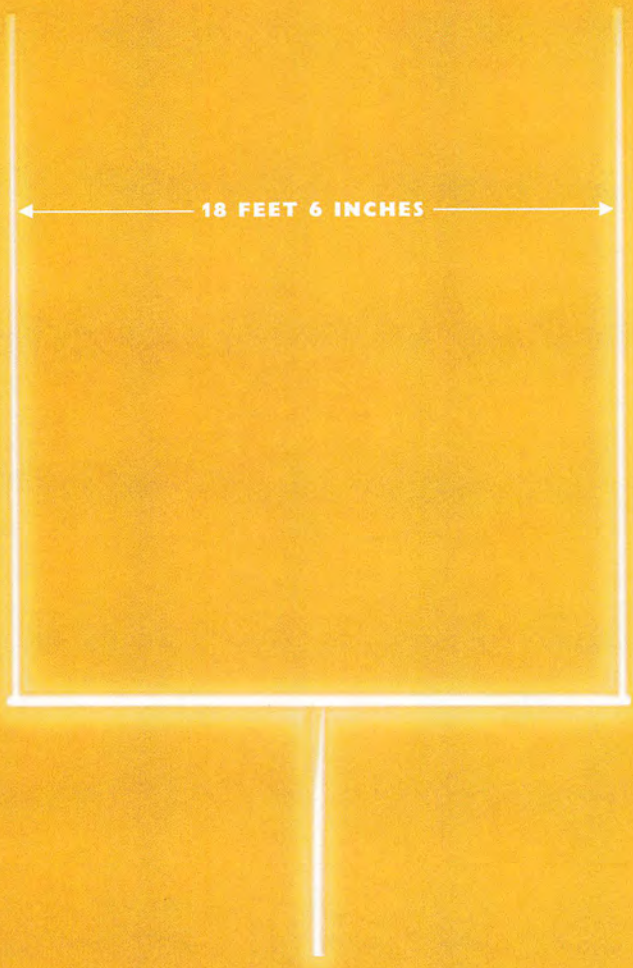

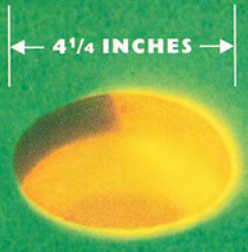

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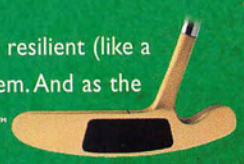

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SUPER BOWL XXX

CONTENTS

SUPER WEEK

The activities span the gamut as Arizona celebrates the biggest sports event of the year. Here's a day-by-day guide to the events leading up to the game.

17

SCOUTING REPORT

What are the strengths, weaknesses, and keys to success for the teams in Super Bowl XXX? Take an in-depth look at how the opponents match up today.

81

SUPER BOWL SPOTLIGHT

Insightful commentaries examine football's hold on its fans, and colorful and timely features reflect on Joe Montana, Don Shula, Weeb Ewbank, the Super Bowl Shuffle, and more.

133

1995 REPLAY

Revisit the dramatic plays, record achievements, and surprising upsets that colored the 1995 season in this comprehensive week-by-week review.

239

A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CONTENTS IS ON PAGE 12

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INSIDE: SUPER BOWL XXX GAME PROGRAM

FROM THE INSIDE *by John Wiebusch*.....15

SUPER WEEK *by James Buckley, Jr.*.....17

XXX MEMORIES *by Jim Gigliotti*.....37

SUPER BOWL REVIEW *by Jim Perry*.....57

SUPER BOWL RECORDS.....76

SCOUTING REPORT.....81

NFC OVERVIEW.....83

AFC OVERVIEW.....87

NFC PASSING.....91

AFC PASSING.....92

NFC RUSHING.....95

AFC RUSHING.....96

NFC PASS DEFENSE.....99

AFC PASS DEFENSE.....100

NFC RUSHING DEFENSE.....103

AFC RUSHING DEFENSE.....104

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS.....107

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS.....108

HOW THE NFC CHAMPIONS WERE BUILT.....111

HOW THE AFC CHAMPIONS WERE BUILT.....112

NFC ALPHABETICAL ROSTER.....114

STARTING LINEUPS AND NUMERICAL ROSTERS.....116

AFC ALPHABETICAL ROSTER.....119

NFC PLAYER PHOTOS.....121

AFC PLAYER PHOTOS.....125

SUPER BOWL OWNERS.....128

OFFICIAL SIGNALS.....130

SUPER BOWL SPOTLIGHT.....133

THE VINNYS: SUPER BOWL SINGLE-GAME BESTS.....134

The KING OF COOL *by Scott Ostler*.....150

Robert James Waller.....161

DANCING BEARS *by Kevin Lamb*.....164

Tony Hillerman.....175

SHULA: END OF AN ERA.....177A

WEEB *by Ray Didinger*.....178

Eric Champnella and Keith Mitchell.....187

ARIZONA HIGHWAYS *by Phil Barber*.....192

Waddie Mitchell.....203

FOOTBALL'S PLACE IN THE SUN *by Matt Marini*.....206

Scott Momaday.....213

THE NFL AND TV *by Tom Barnidge*.....216

BEST SHOTS '95: IMAGES OF THE NFL SEASON.....224

1995 REPLAY *by Jim Perry*.....239

1995 STATISTICAL LEADERS.....280

1995 NFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS.....284

1995 AFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS.....286

SUPER BOWL XXX • SUNDAY • JANUARY 28, 1996 • 4:00 PM • SUN DEVIL STADIUM, ARIZONA

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IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND
JAMES WHITAKER, 1954-1995

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SmartMoney
October 1995

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"Timely, objective research..."

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Best: Merrill Lynch
"Merrill Lynch was way out in front here."

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Dillard's

For Ed Adams

1934 1995

by John Wiebusch

For 20 years he was the church and we were the state. He sold the ads for the Super Bowl game program, for *PRO!* magazine, for *GameDay*, for *Team NFL*. We produced the editorial.

He was New York and we were Los Angeles, and Rudyard Kipling be damned, the twain *did* meet. We were one with him.

Not many publications' editors are friends with the ad sales director. But then not many editors got a chance to work with Ed Adams.

He was our friend. He was *everyone's* friend...from the captains of industry to the secretaries who answer their phones...from the chieftains of Madison Avenue to the waiters who bring them another round...from people who live in the suburbs to people who sleep in the doorways of Grand Central Station (yes, even to them...maybe *especially* to them).

MERV CONNING

Last February 20, three weeks and one day after Super Bowl XXIX, the light in our lives became a little dimmer, the laughter a little softer. Ed Adams left us that day.

The Super Bowl will be poorer without him. He loved this game, this week. And no one hosted it better. No one.

You never saw Ed Adams's name on the editorial pages of the publications of the National Football League, but the truth is his imprint was on every page.

We couldn't have done it without him.

Truer words never were spoken. Advertising and editorial are the chicken and egg of publishing. And which comes first doesn't really matter because you really *can't* have one without the other.

This thirtieth Super Bowl program—every one of its 288 pages—is dedicated to the man who sold the ads for all those years.

But Ed Adams was no Willie Loman. Ed Adams never kicked a tire or sat on an open house or tried to sell you a bad tie.

Ed Adams was the consummate seller of print. He was Jerry Rice with a rate card, Barry Sanders with a contract, Joe Montana with a pen, saying, "Put your signature here, Pal."

Ed Adams could sell an ad on the phone...in his office...on a train...on a plane...and, yes, even in a parking lot. But, mostly, his second office was the palace of the New York advertising crowd, Smith & Wollensky.

The wood walls of Smith's hold a century of smoke. Get a dollar for every toast that has been made there and your fortune could rival Bill Gates's.

Ed Adams had his own table there, up front, of course, by his own brass name plate that hangs above those of a couple dozen other friends of Ed, Smith's regulars, all of them.

There are certain things that men do each day. Yeah, we all go to the bathroom, we all shave, we all shower, we all get dressed, we all go to work.

That's five things, right? For Ed Adams there was a sixth.

He went to Smith's for lunch.

Hell, he *was* Smith's. I'd go there with him and it was different from going to lunch with anyone else at any other place I knew. In a funny way, it was like going out with my dad, and not because Ed Adams was a few years older. It was just, well, different. The respect for him rubbed off on his guests. You always felt special there with him.

The legacy of what Ed Adams did will exist as long as there are pages to be turned and microfiche files to be examined.

But the legacy that I will remember has nothing to do with beautiful books or glossy pages.

It has to do with being a human being. No one I know did that better, did it with more dignity and aplomb, with more generosity or wit, than Ed Adams. He called each of us "Pal," and we were. There was nothing he wouldn't do to help a friend, no extra mile he wouldn't go. And it never was tit for tat, never *quid pro quo*. God never gave us a more unilateral giver.

Most people I know spend most of their waking hours—most of their *sleeping* ones, too—thinking about themselves. Ed Adams spent most of his time thinking about others.

And it wasn't just you and me and the crowd in Smith's. He always had a good word—not to mention a Super Bowl pin or two—for the secretaries and the guys from the mail room, for messengers and cab drivers.

If you ever had dinner with Ed, you know that he always had most of his dinner wrapped to go, always had the same done to any of the other leftovers at the table, always asked that the kitchen "throw in a little extra." Then, as he passed through Grand Central Station to catch the train for Larchmont, he would give the food to his "friends" there...to Joe under the stairs on the west side of the station...to Rudy in the alcove above a dark hallway...to Mary Jane inside the entrance to Track 34. Ed Adams knew their names. They didn't know his.

On a December day a few years ago, NFL Properties had a Christmas lunch at the Plaza Hotel that consumed most of an afternoon. The party was breaking up, and there still was a banquet table full of food. Ed Adams asked the waiters if they would have the kitchen wrap all the leftovers and put them in bags so he could drop them off in Grand Central. They brought him six bags of food.

Ed suddenly remembered that he was not going straight home, that he was supposed to meet someone for dinner. One of the few people left was his boss, a handsome, young NFLP vice president so WASPishly proper he could have had relatives on the Mayflower. "Hey, Pal," Ed said, "do me a favor and pass out the stuff in these bags when you pass through the station." The vice president left with six shopping bags.

Ed Adams was a man of uncommon values, of exceptional warmth, and it was the world's great fortune to have had him as its guest for more than 60 years.

Know this: They miss him in Grand Central Station, too.

Prenuptial Agreement

From the Law Offices of
Giles, Finkelstein and Hart

To all to whom this may come to affect or may concern, know ye that it is understood that on the fourth day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Five, that **Jim Morrissey** (hereafter known as the **First Party**) and **Jeanne Fulton** (hereafter known as the **Second Party**) are entering the contract of wedlock.

The following constitutes a full, legal and binding arrangement of said properties set before this date. This agreement shall be executed in multiple copies.

It is also to be understood that both the **First Party** and the **Second Party** are in complete agreement regarding the contents of this document and have stated so by signature and by witness on the fourth day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Five. This agreement cannot be changed orally.

The following below is a full, detailed breakdown of said agreement regarding all properties of consequence shared by the **First Party** and the **Second Party**.

HIS

Season Tickets
Crown Royal

HERS

Everything else

If any provision of this Agreement shall later be found void or invalid in whole or in part, the remainder of this Agreement, and the remainder of that part of this Agreement not found void or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect.

In Witness Whereof, we the undersigned, on this date, the fourth day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Five, are in complete agreement with the above arrangement and will abide by the contents of the document from the day of inception to the day the contract has been nullified by a court of law.

First Party

Signature Jim Morrissey Date 2/4/95

Second Party

Signature Jeanne Fulton Date 2/4/95

Notary Public Barbara McDaid Date 2/4/95

Notary Public
No.00-000000
Certificate Filed in York County
Commission Expires April 8, 1999

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SUPER WEEK

A DAY-BY-DAY GUIDE
TO THE WEEK PRECEDING
SUPER BOWL XXX

Plus Memories
of Super Bowls Past

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Monday, January 22
Tuesday, January 23

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

Monday was the first day of the most amazing, football-mad week that the Valley of the Sun ever has experienced. From dawn to dusk, from Monday through Super Bowl Sunday, more than 100 special events allowed everyone in town to catch the Super Bowl spirit.

On Monday, the two Super Bowl teams arrived and took time out to visit local hospitals, schools, and community centers.

Flag Football: *More than 35,000 people "aired it out" in 1995.*

Tuesday featured photo day for the media at Sun Devil Stadium, three different golf pro-ams at the **Phoenix Open** (see page 25), and the first performance of the **Super Bowl Concert Series** (see page 25).

For some participants in the local Phoenix-area **NFL Air-It-Out** four-on-four flag football event, it was a time for massaging aching muscles.

The Arizona games were the latest stop on a 24-city tour that will culminate with a national championship this spring to be broadcast on national TV during the 1996 NFL preseason.

JANUARY 22, 1989

This Date in Super Bowl History...

Joe Montana's last-minute touchdown pass to John Taylor gave San Francisco a 20-16 victory over Cincinnati.

Super Bowl MVP: Jerry Rice, 49ers

By the Numbers: More than 1,000 buses, 700 limousines, and 10,000 rental cars will be used by an estimated 95,000 Super Bowl visitors.

it's a Kids, Kids, Kids, Kids Bowl

The NFL has created an all-star assortment of youth-education programs, events, and activities during Super Bowl week.

- Super Bowl Youth Clinics: Top NFL stars joined local students at a two-day instructional session at Arizona State.
- *¡Viva football!*: An NFL Super Bowl Youth Clinic attracted more than 500 kids in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, in a joint program with the state of Sonora.
- PASS and FACT: Two ongoing programs were visible at The NFL Experience. GTE Project PASS combines film footage from actual NFL games with computer technology to teach math concepts to seventh-graders.

The NFL FACT Program (Football and Academics: A Championship Team), sponsored by Shell Oil and Fleer, uses trading cards featuring NFL stars to promote themes such as Stay in School, Stay Off Drugs, and Stay Fit.

- YET: Beginning with Super Bowl XXVII, the NFL has helped set up a Youth Education Town in each Super Bowl host city. The Phoenix area will be the next site of such an educational and recreational complex.

Other kids' events at Super Bowl XXX included a bike rodeo to teach helmet and bicycle safety; the Kickoff for Kids luncheon with Walter Payton for the Boys and Girls Clubs; a Make-A-Wish Foundation fund raiser; and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Celebration.

Two important NFL education efforts were part of the 1995 NFL season:

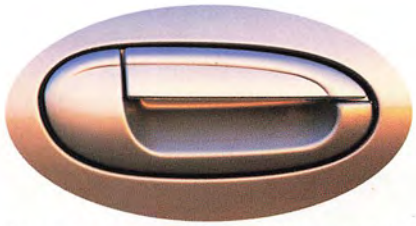
- The NFL Teacher of the Month award honored elementary and secondary teachers nominated by NFL players. A Teacher of the Year is honored at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.
- Through the JCPenney/Starter Take a Player to School program, many NFL players visited schools as the guests of sweepstakes winners. The players helped promote education and positive habits.

Kids' Zone: *Fun, fun, fun at NFL Youth Clinics and Kids' Day at The NFL Experience.*

THE NAME CREATES HIGH EXPECTATIONS. THE CAR EXCEEDS THEM.

Welcome to a new car that fulfills the promise made by its respected name. With design that captivates. Performance that inspires. Quality that assures. This is the only new car that deserves to wear the name Taurus.

Every element in the new Taurus is unified by a common design theme.

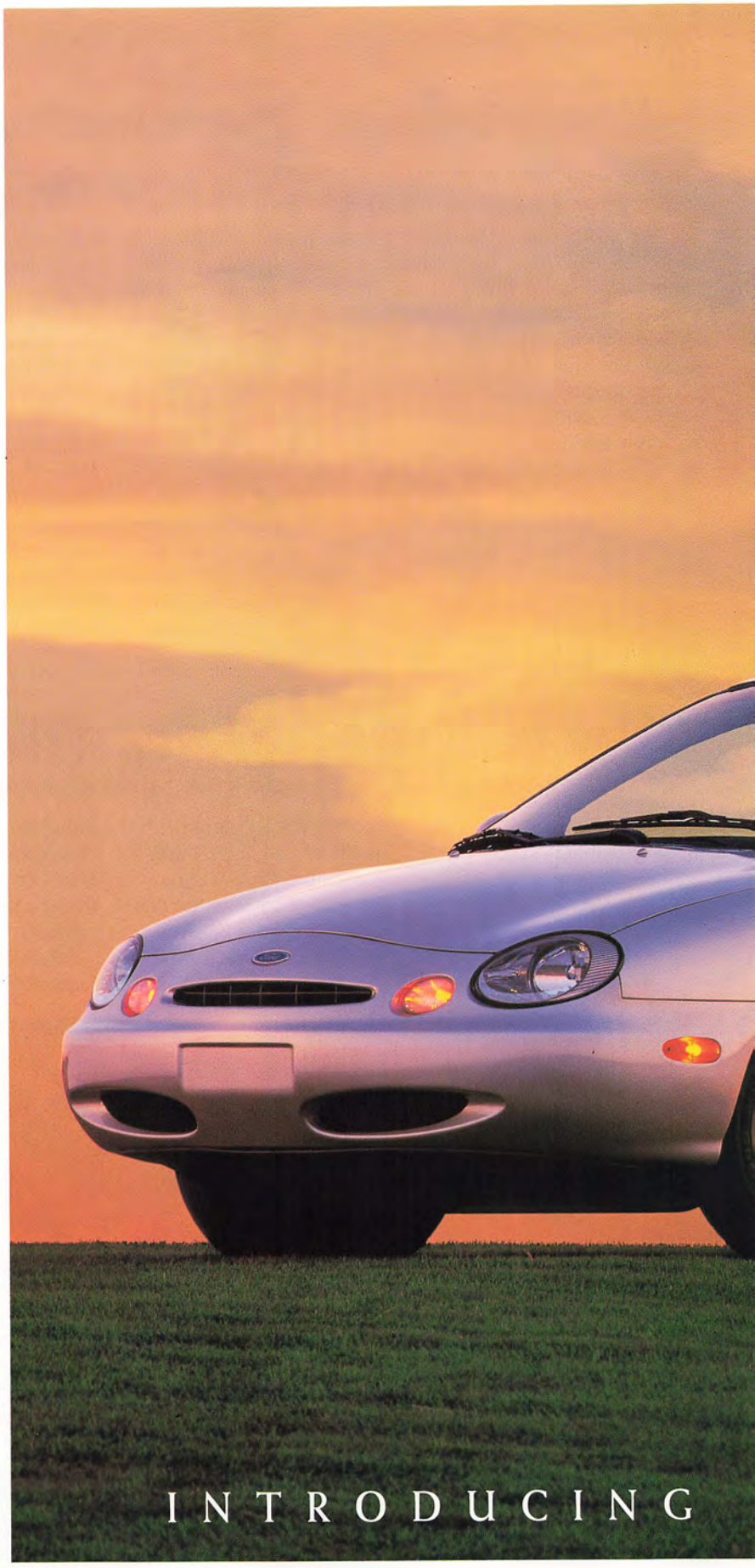


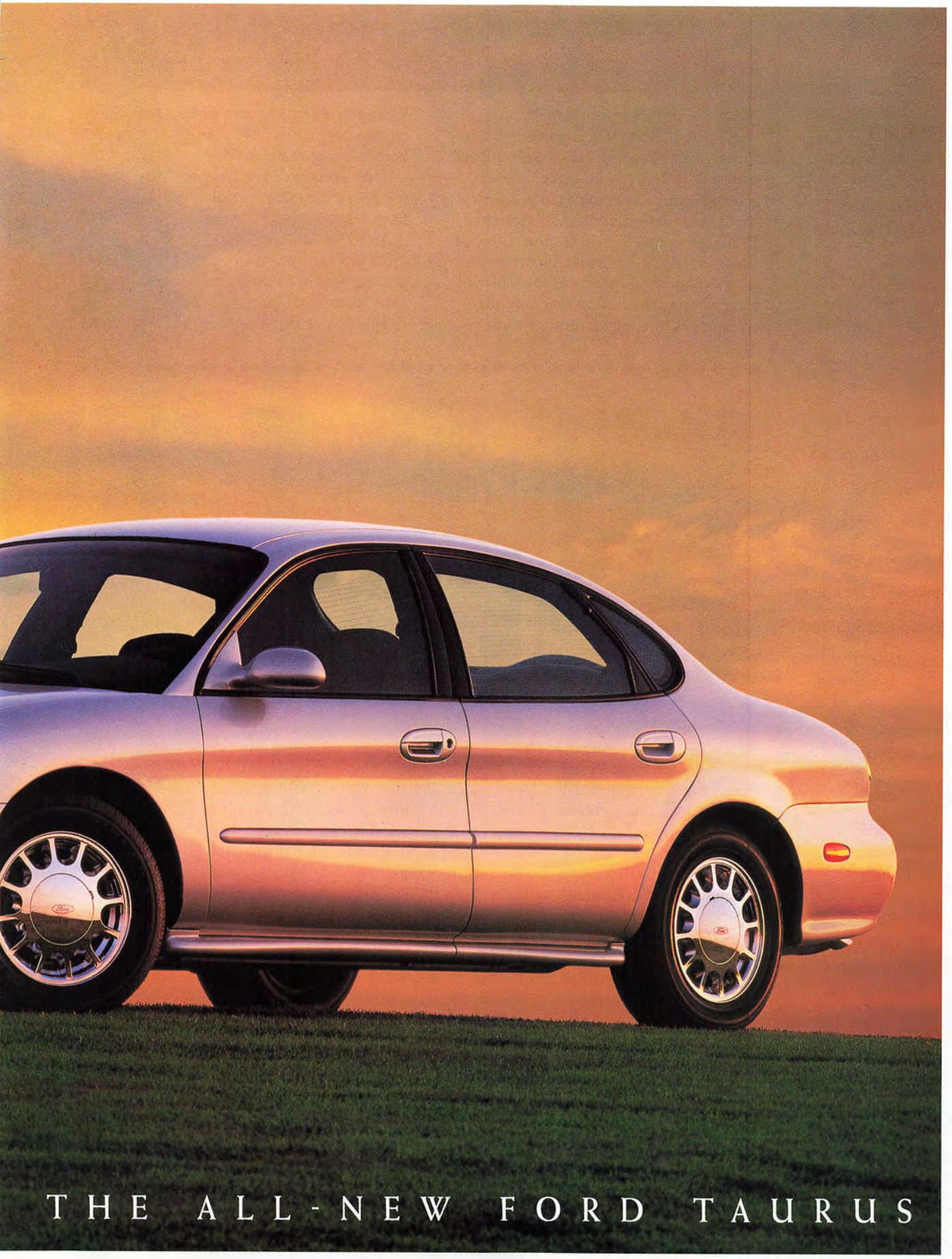
This creates a purposeful pattern that shows itself in every graceful curve.

The result, a design so unique, it could only go by one name...Taurus.

Ford

HAVE YOU DRIVEN A FORD LATELY?




THE ALL-NEW FORD TAURUS

Wednesday, January 24

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

JANUARY 24, 1982

This Date in Super Bowl History...

Although Cincinnati outgained San Francisco in total yards, 356 to 275, the Bengals were outscored 26-21.

Super Bowl MVP: Joe Montana, 49ers

SUPER BOWL XVI

One of the most unusual events of Super Bowl week continued today—the **Peaks to Valley Super Bowl Game Ball Relay**. The game ball for Sunday's game is being carried from the state's highest point, San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff, to the Valley of the Sun. By car, by truck, by limousine, on foot, and on horseback, the ball will traverse the state before reaching the stadium. (On a related note, a team of **Wrangler Pony Express Riders** will deliver the commemorative coin to be flipped before Super Bowl XXX.)

This afternoon, the Arizona Museum for Youth hosted a special **Super Bowl SpARTS** event.

And ***The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*** (right) began preparations for two broadcasts to air from Arizona during Super Bowl week.

CHRIS HASTON/NBC

By the Numbers: More than 40,000 man-hours were needed to set up The NFL Experience . . . An estimated 15,000 autographs will be signed in the 75,000-square foot NFL Card Show.

BOB ROSATO

The NFL Experience: *Fans jumped into football.*

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

GERRY GALLEGOS

Super Bowl Card Show: *Barry Sanders signed in '95.*

For the past five years, The NFL Experience has become a centerpiece of Super Bowl week. This year, the pro football theme park came to life on 20 acres next to Sun Devil Stadium.

Created by NFL Properties and presented by Coca-Cola, The NFL Experience features more than 50 attractions and exhibits, from interactive skills tests to free player-autograph sessions to electronic football games. Visitors can watch NFL game balls being manufactured by Wilson, get a personalized Classic trading card, and check out an authentic NFL locker room.

Team Shop: *NFL merchandise galore*

The NFL Films Theater presents a high-impact feature film. In Throwbacks, fans can step back through more than seven decades of NFL history and view artifacts from the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Fans can call the play-by-play of a great NFL moment, try to convert an extra-point kick, attempt to field a booming punt, and much, much more.

The largest venue attraction at The NFL Experience is the Super Bowl Card Show, with more than 125 exhibitors displaying the latest and best in sports memorabilia.

ADVANCE TICKETS TO THE NFL EXPERIENCE ARE $10 FOR ADULTS AND $6 FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER ($12 AND $6 AT THE GATE). THEY ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH TICKETMASTER AND DILLARD'S.

BOB ROSATO

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

To the Winners Go...

The Super Bowl champion will take home the Vince Lombardi Trophy (right). The most valuable player will receive the Pete Rozelle Trophy (left). Both pieces were created for the NFL by Tiffany & Co.

AFTER THE CHAMPAGNE SHOWERS, BREAK OUT THE GOOD STUFF.

stay COOL

MILLER BREWING COMPANY REMINDS YOU TO PLEASE: THINK WHEN YOU DRINK

SUPER XXX BOWL

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Canon

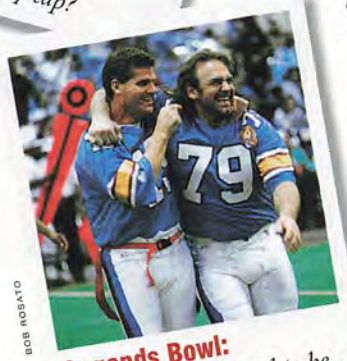
Thursday, January 25

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

The players of the NFL—past and present—stole the show today. First, the **Sega Sports NFL Players Party** kicked off a four-day run at Phoenix Civic Plaza. Activities included live music, volleyball and basketball exhibitions, golf and baseball challenges, and free video games. Fans enjoyed mingling with hundreds of current and former NFL players, including hosts Marcus Allen and Ronnie Lott of the Kansas City Chiefs, along with celebrities from the worlds of music, movies, and television.

Players' Party: *Please sign my cap?*

While today's players partied with fans, another group of former players participated in the **Throwbacks Bowl**, a flag-football game played at The NFL Experience. Memories of past greatness were rekindled, and old friends met on the field again as the ex-NFL stars competed and raised money for local charities.



BOB ROSATO

Legends Bowl: *Hey, didn't you used to be...?*

Super Bowl visitors looking for a little less action enjoyed the sights at the **Bank of America Art Walk** in Scottsdale.

ALLEN KEE

TEE OFF KICKOFF
Whether players shot for a hole in I, a birdie II, or just yelled "JV!," golf was the other big game in town this week.

PHOENIX OPEN CHARITY CUP:
The annual PGA Tour event at the TPC of Scottsdale ran from Wednesday through Saturday to accommodate Sunday's Phoenix Open Charity Cup, sponsored by Motorola. Teams of NFL players, PGA Tour pros, and business leaders raised $500,000 for Arizona charities.

NFL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC:
The Wigwam Resort was the site of this twelfth annual event, which has raised more than $900,000 over the years. Members of the Pro Football Writers of America were joined by NFL players and alumni.

ED BLOCK COURAGE AWARD GOLF CHALLENGE:
Raising funds for six nationwide Courage Houses for children in crisis, this tournament was hosted by Bears kicker Kevin Butler. A unique format of "teams" and "conferences" played in the tournament, named for a long-time NFL trainer who championed the cause of children in need.

JANUARY 25, 1981

This Date in Super Bowl History...

An 80-yard touchdown pass from Jim Plunkett to Kenny King highlighted Oakland's 27-10 victory over Philadelphia.

Super Bowl MVP: Jim Plunkett, Raiders

SUPER BOWL XV

By the Numbers: A whole new field was laid down before Super Bowl XXX—90,000 square feet of Tiffway 419 (a Bermuda summer grass) . . . During Super Bowl XXIX, chip-dipping Americans ate 8 million pounds of guacamole.

SUPER ENTERTAINMENT

Featuring: *(from left to right) Vince Gill, Wayne Newton, Jeff Foxworthy, Rod Stewart*

The Super Bowl Concert Series brought a championship lineup of entertainment talent to area concert halls this week. Country music star **Vince Gill** performed at America West Arena. **Wayne Newton** sang at the Sundome. Comedian **Jeff Foxworthy** made 'em laugh at Veterans Memorial Coliseum. And **Rod Stewart** rocked the house at America West the night before the game.

VICTORIA PEARSON

STEVE SIGOLOFF

KAL VEE

Friday, January 26

JANUARY 26, 1992

This Date in Super Bowl History...

En route to a 37-24 victory, Washington led 24-0 before Buffalo scored.

Super Bowl MVP: Mark Rypien, Redskins

By the Numbers: In 10 years, more than 650,000 Super Bowl seat cushions have been given away . . . More than 8,000 volunteers will be needed at Super Bowl XXX.

WELL-CUSHIONED FANS The Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America got Sun Devil Stadium prepared for the big game by distributing nearly 75,000 **GTE Super Bowl XXX seat cushions**, marking the tenth year GTE has participated in this program. The cushion's special pocket includes a GTE phone card, a CD-ROM containing a Team NFL Internet browser from Microsoft, and a pair of binoculars provided by Breathe Right.

MICHAEL BURR/NFLP

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

As the clock ticked down to kickoff, school was out today. Arizona State University canceled classes for a day to alleviate congestion around the campus and to allow students to enjoy the Super Bowl experience.

Along with giving the NFL the use of their football stadium, hundreds of Sun Devil students already have helped during Super Bowl week by volunteering at dozens of events. Last fall, ASU students interested in the sports industry enjoyed a series of **Super Bowl Kickoff Seminars** that brought marketing, publishing, special events, and media professionals to campus.

Away from the classroom, the **ASU Experience** began today in Tempe, running through Sunday. The daylong parties feature live music, dancing, food, and lots of fun for undergrads and grads alike. Sunday, students will gather to watch the game together at the **ASU Students' Party**.

DON BEIDEMAN

Away from campus, another big event today was the **Super Bowl Fiesta**, a Hispanic street festival in downtown Phoenix. Music, food, games, and dancing filled Patriots Square until midnight.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue hosted the annual **NFL Friday Night Party** for thousands of invited guests.

Bag the Books...it's Super Bowl Time: *Students will have as much fun as the players.*

SUPER BUILDERS

Using muscles honed on the playing field, NFL players joined hundreds of volunteers for two important building projects during Super Bowl week.

—CHRISTMAS IN APRIL: Demonstrating the work its organization does year-round and nationwide, Christmas in April rehabilitated two Phoenix houses belonging to senior citizens in need. The volunteers were joined by NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and his wife Chandler, the vice president of Christmas in April.

—HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BLITZ BUILD: For the second year during Super Bowl week, NFL players and alumni chipped in to help build eight homes from scratch in just a week to house low-income families. In the tradition of Habitat, the families worked alongside volunteers to raise the houses.

MANNY RUBIO

He Really Drilled It: *Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Nitschke helped at last year's Habitat for Humanity house-raising.*

Take the wheel and we defy you not to smile. 400 horses. Zero to sixty in just over four heartbeats. Eighteen inch wheels. A new wider stance. It's the new Nine Eleven Turbo. Some very serious amusement. Call 1-800-PORSCHE and prepare to agree: Porsche. There is no substitute.™

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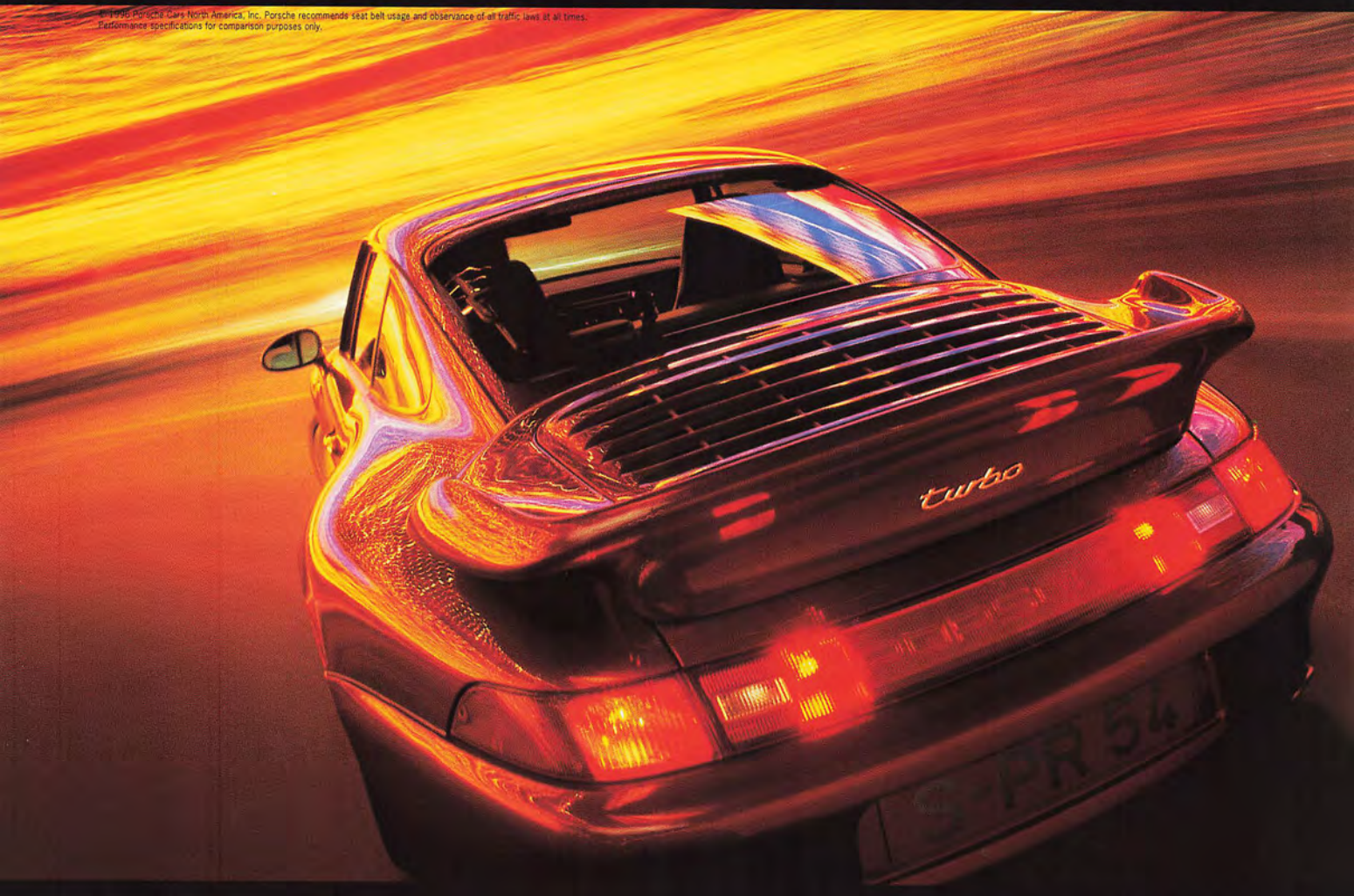

Like your own portable amusement park.

WORLD
CHAMPION
FACE YOUR FEARS
NO FEAR
LIVE YOUR DREAMS
Photo by Tim Mantoani
NO FEAR

Saturday, January 27

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

Super Bowl fanatics all over the Valley of the Sun tried today to pack in as much fun as they could before the big game.

The excitement began in the morning with the **Parada del Sol** down Scottsdale Road. Arizona cowboys, Native American tribes, local bands, and celebrities marched in the raucous style of a Wild West parade.

Thousands of members of the media in town to cover the game enjoyed golf, tennis, and a lunch sponsored by the Host Committee.

Athletes in Action presented the **Bart Starr Award** at a gala breakfast.

After sunset, thousands of people attended the **Bank One Super Bowl Street Spectacular** in downtown Tempe. Visitors enjoyed four concert areas, interactive football games, Arizona wine tasting, a pep rally, and fireworks.

Topping off the day was the annual **Taste of the NFL** (right), which drew nearly 2,000 guests to the Arizona Biltmore. Chefs from every NFL city were joined by NFL players and alumni to serve food and raise money for local and national hunger relief organizations.

JANUARY 27, 1991

This Date in Super Bowl History...

The Giants beat the Bills 20-19 in the closest Super Bowl in history.

Super Bowl MVP: Ottis Anderson, Giants

By the Numbers: NBC Sports will have 145 engineers and 28 miles of cable on hand to cover the game. . .The highest-rated Super Bowl was XVI with a 49.1 Nielsen rating.

Words and Pictures

One of the two broadcasters of Super Bowl I, NBC brings a wealth of experience to its telecast of Super Bowl XXX. Anchoring the six hours of game-day coverage will be the announcing team of Emmy-winning play-by-play man Dick Enberg and analyst Paul Maguire, joined by Phil Simms, the most valuable player of Super Bowl XXI.

SHAWN PIPKIN/NBC

NBC Sports Team: *(left to right) Paul Maguire, Dick Enberg, Phil Simms*

On CBS Radio, Baseball Hall-of-Fame inductee Jack Buck handles play-by-play. Hank Stram, the Super Bowl IV-winning coach of the Chiefs, brings expert analysis. Their words also will be heard by U.S. servicemen and women on Armed Forces Radio around the world. CBS Americas, the Spanish-language radio network hosted by Armando Quintero, Jessi Losada, and Vikings kicker Fuad Reveiz, will beam the game to listeners in Mexico, Colombia, and Spain.

Those foreign fans won't be alone. More than 175 countries will receive the Super Bowl on TV or radio from the media inside Sun Devil Stadium. Fans will be able to hear the game in languages such as Portuguese, Dutch, German, Japanese, and even Mandarin. BBC National Radio in Great Britain will broadcast the game live for the first time. And KTNN in Phoenix will carry the first Super Bowl ever broadcast in Navajo.

ON THE AIR

NBC PREGAME	3:30 P.M. EST
GAME COVERAGE	6:00 P.M. EST
KTAR (ENGLISH)	620 AM
KVVA (SPANISH)	860 AM
KTNN (NAVAJO)	660 AM

WE WANT OUR SBTV

Via **SBTV**, five hours of programming on two nights will be beamed from The NFL Experience to TNT viewers around the country. The Throwbacks Bowl and a celebration of the Super Bowl's thirtieth anniversary highlighted Friday night's two-part telecast.

The presentation of the first Super Bowl single-game performance awards, "The Vinnys," highlighted Saturday night's telecast, along with "The Best of 1995" and the announcement of the 1996 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductees.

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HOW DO YOU STOP

A 300 POUND

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

FROM CHARGING?

YOU DON'T.

VISA NFL

OFFICIAL CARD

Sunday, January 28

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

JANUARY 28, 1990

This Date in Super Bowl History...

San Francisco set a Super Bowl scoring record in a 55-10 victory over Denver.

Super Bowl MVP: Joe Montana, 49ers

FIRST AID: Emergency medical facilities in Sun Devil Stadium are located under section 40 and on the concourse at section 17. If you need help, contact any ASU Guest Service representative, security personnel, or uniformed police officer.

Once again, the Super Bowl Pregame Show promises to be an exciting and colorful kickoff to Super Bowl Sunday.

Country music star Glen Campbell (left), a long-time resident of Phoenix, will host the Arizona-themed extravaganza.

LEANDER HYEOMA

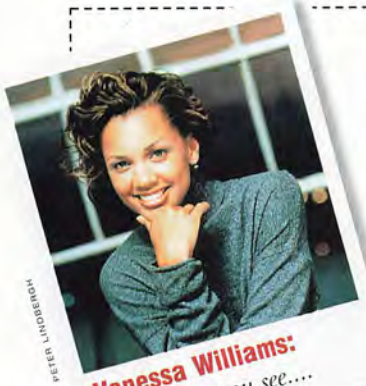
Representatives of the 21 Indian Nations of Arizona will open the show, performing traditional dances. The second segment will take the audience back to Arizona's "Wild West" days. A "train robbery," staged by "Rockin' R Ranch" and the Arizona Gunfighters, will be followed by an old-fashioned hoe-down.

In the finale, the Doobie Brothers will rock Sun Devil Stadium with their hit "China Grove."

The National Anthem (see box) will have special poignance today, marking the tenth anniversary of the tragedy of the space shuttle Challenger. The Anthem will be followed by a flyover of F-16s from Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. The lead pilot, Richard Scobee, is the son of Dick Scobee, the commander of Challenger.

The show will be produced for the twelfth year by Bob Best. The associate producer is Ed Jones, and the choreographer is Lesslee Fitzmorris of American All-Star, Inc.

Music and Dance:
Native Americans open the show; the Doobie Brothers close it.



PETER LINDBERGH

Vanessa Williams:
Oh say can you see....

The National Anthem

Vanessa Williams, today's National Anthem singer, has had a busy year. Along with performing on Broadway in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, she had a top five hit, "Colors of the Wind," from the movie *Pocahontas*, saw her third album, *The Sweetest Days*, go platinum, and starred in two television movies. After winning seven Grammy awards, today she wins the hearts of sports fans.

Signing the Anthem for the hearing impaired will be Mary Kim Titla, a Native American reporter for KPNX-TV in Phoenix.

AN MVP COIN TOSS

If there is one man who knows about tossing things at a Super Bowl, it's **Joe Montana**, the game's only three-time most valuable player and the owner of Super Bowl career records for highest passer rating, completions, passing yards, and touchdown passes.

PETER READ MILLER

Representing the most valuable players from the previous 29 Super Bowls, most of whom will be present at midfield, Montana will toss something else today: the coin. Former Green Bay quarterback Bart Starr did the honors at Super Bowl XX, the last time the game's MVPs were so honored.

30 NEW ITEMS MADE TO TAKE ON A LAND THAT KNOWS NO LIMITS

MARLBORO UNLIMITED GEAR

GEAR WITHOUT LIMITS

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.

Marlboro

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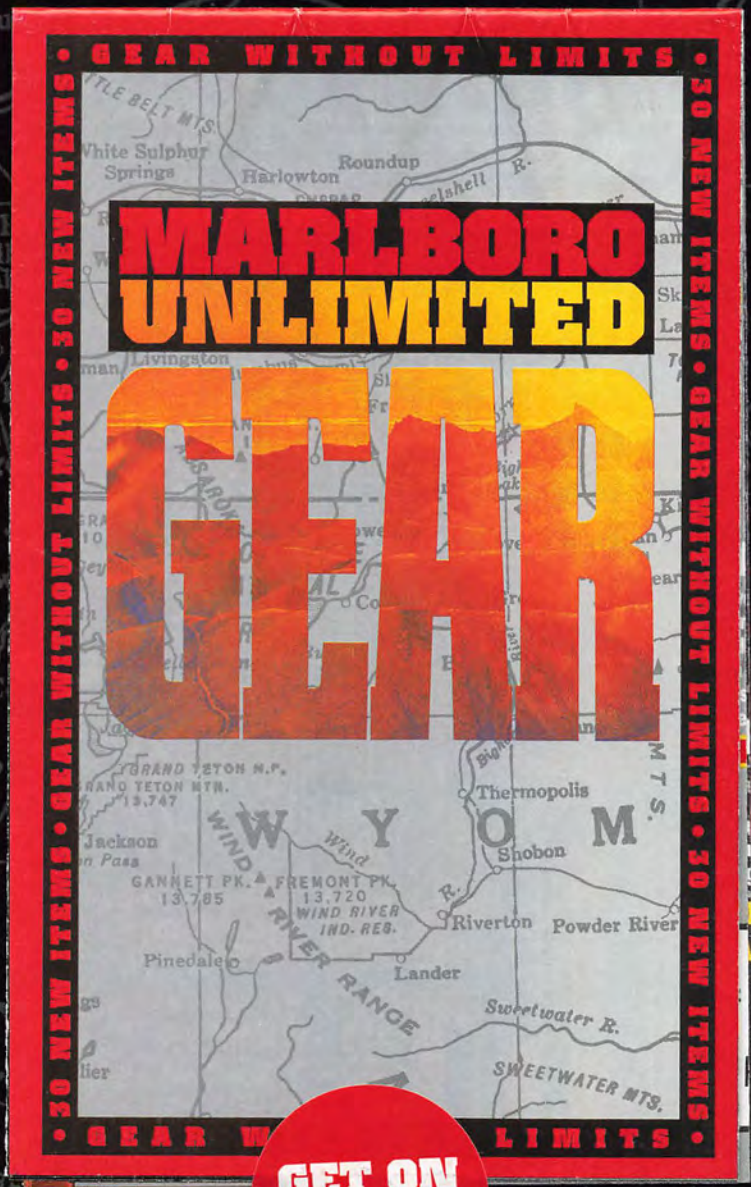
16 mg "tar," 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.



Limited to smokers 21 years of age or older.

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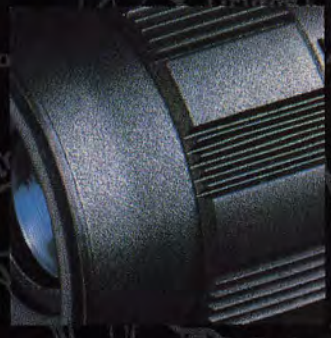
BIKES THAT FOLD. FISHING GEAR THAT PACKS. GEAR BAGS THAT TAKE ON ANY TERRAIN. AND MORE. IT'S GEAR WITHOUT LIMITS. ALL YOURS, WHEN YOU SAVE MARLBORO UNLIMITED MILES.



Map © 1979 by Rand McNally, R.L. 95-S-196.

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Sunday, January 28

TODAY AT THE SUPER BOWL

RADIO CITY PRODUCTIONS

SUPER BOWL XXX HALFTIME SHOW STAFF

President & CEO
JAMES A. MCMANUS

Executive Producer
ARLEN KANTARIAN

Executive-in-Charge
MICHAEL T. FIUR

Producer
ANTHONY SALERNO, JR.

Director
MARILYN MAGNESS

Creative Director
JEFFREY ERNSTOFF

TV Director
STEVE BINDER

Talent Executive
ED MICONE

Diana Ross Choreographer/Creative Consultant
KENNY ORTEGA

Musical Director
BRAD BUXER

Staging Director
JUDY CHABOLA

Coordinating Producers
STEVE CARROLL, MINDY DOW

Art Director
CLARE GRAHAM

Lighting Designer
BOB DICKINSON

Costume Designer
GARLAND RIDDLE

Card Stunt Artist
MICHAEL COTTEN

Budget Director
BRUCE WEINSTEIN

Staging Supervisor
JOE ZENAS

Associate Choreographer
DOUG JACK

Production Stage Manager
JEFF KNEPPER

Diana Ross Tour Manager
ELISE FRANKOVITZ

Production Coordinators
ERIC CARPENTER, FRANK HOPKINS, RITA MACDERMOTT, MATT ZEMON

Exec.-in-Charge/Business Affairs
ELLEN MILLER-WACHTEL

Business Affairs Staff
STEPHANIE JACQUENEY
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PETE CROKEN

Purchasing
GAYLE HENDERSON, JOHN MALASPINA

Publicity Executive
ROSE POLIDORO-TAYLOR

Publicity Staff
ANNIE FORT, STEPHEN HENDERSON

Exec.-in-Charge/Finance
GENE HEANEY

Budgets
BOB GARCIA, BRUCE WEINSTEIN

The second-biggest event of every Super Bowl Sunday is the spectacular halftime show. This year, Radio City Productions will spotlight one of the world's most famous entertainers, Diana Ross.

Ross has been a star in every medium, from song to stage to screen. Beginning with her work with the Supremes in the 1960s to her solo career from the 1970s to today, she has had more number-one hits than any performer except the Beatles. Her latest album is *Take Me Higher*.

Today, on a 100-yard stage, she'll be joined by a singing and dancing ensemble, by the 1,000-member World Choir, and by thousands of Phoenix-area children representing Phoenix's diverse population. Ross is a major supporter of A Better Chance, a national children's aid organization. Pyrotechnics, a balloon release, and a stadium-spanning, audience-participation card show also will be part of the program.

Supreme Talent:
Diana Ross will perform a medley of her greatest hits at halftime.

THE RECYCLE BOWL

Once again, recycling played a big part in Super Bowl planning. Recyclable materials were collected from all NFL-sponsored events during Super Bowl week. In addition, more than 40,000 pounds of food were donated to local food banks. Finally, carpooling and mass transit were used to reduce the impact of the game on local air quality.

HAVE A BALL!

Since 1954, Wilson has supplied the NFL with the official ball. Its Super Bowl XXX football is available at the Foot Locker Team Shop in The NFL Experience.

MICHAEL BURNHAM

COLUMNISTS

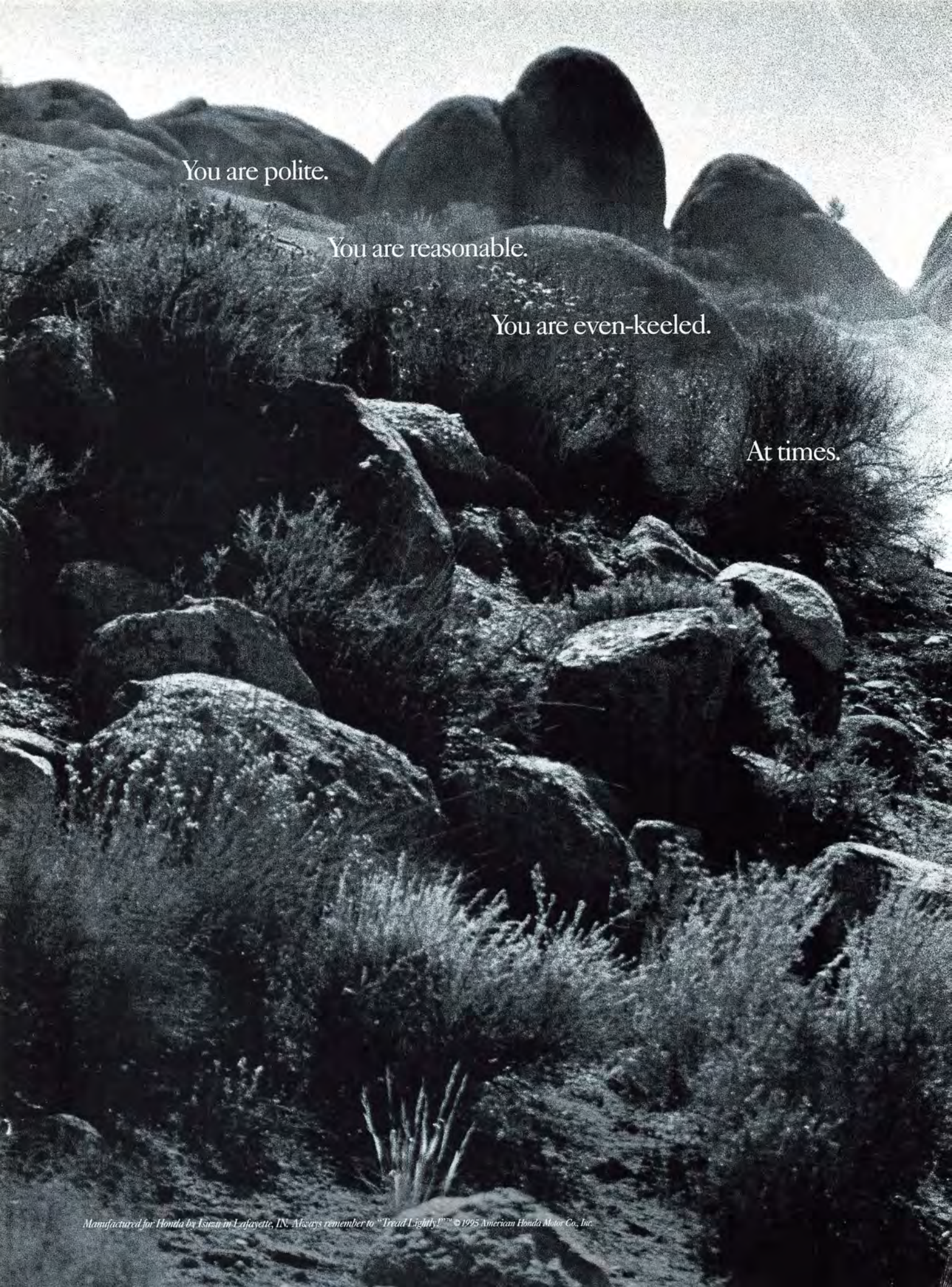
Eric Champnella and **Keith Mitchell** (page 187), a pair of Michigan natives, have taken Hollywood by storm in the past year, writing three sports-based movies. Their first, *Eddie*, a basketball-themed movie starring Whoopi Goldberg, will be released in May, 1996. Their second, *Mr. 3,000*, a baseball-themed movie, will go into production in the spring. Their third, based on the life story of the late University of Michigan football announcer Bob Ufer is scheduled for production later this year.

Tony Hillerman (page 175) has been honored as both a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America and as a "dineh," or special friend, by the Navajo nation. His popular books, usually set in the Southwest and highlighting Native American culture, have educated and enlightened millions. A resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, his latest novel is *Finding Moon*.

Cowboy poet **Waddie Mitchell** (page 203) is equally at home astride a horse or in front of a microphone. The former full-time cowpoke has become a celebrated poet, storyteller, and entertainer, mixing a love for the land with a love for language.

N. Scott Momaday (page 213), poet, novelist, painter, and playwright, is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and a Fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences renowned for his portrayals of the American Southwest.

Robert James Waller (page 161), business teacher-turned-internationally famous author, is best known for his 1992 novel, *The Bridges of Madison County*, which spent nearly a year as the number-one best seller in the nation. His latest novel is *Puerto Vallarta Squeeze*.



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HONDA

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XXX MEMORIES

THE 30 MOST INDELIBLE MOMENTS FROM SUPER BOWLS PAST

by Jim Gigliotti

SOMEWHERE IN THE RECESSES OF EVERY FOOTBALL FAN'S MIND, JOCKEYING FOR SPACE ALONG WITH SNAPSHOTS FROM SUMMER VACATIONS AND GRANDMA'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY PARTY, IS A PHOTO ALBUM OF SUPER BOWL MEMORIES.

THERE'S VINCE LOMBARDI BEING CARRIED OFF THE FIELD.

CAN IT POSSIBLY BE 30 YEARS SINCE THE PACKERS WON THE FIRST BIG ONES? IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WHEN JERRY KRAMER AND FORREST GREGG AND THE REST OF THE PACKERS CARRIED OFF THEIR LEGENDARY COACH AT THE END OF GAME II THAT WASN'T EVEN OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE ITS OWN NAME YET.

THERE'S JOE NAMATH, HIS RIGHT INDEX FINGER RAISED IN THE FAMILIAR "NUMBER ONE" SIGNAL, TROTTING OFF THE FIELD.

A PRECOCIOUS YOUTH, THE SUPER BOWL REALLY BURST ONTO THE SCENE IN ONLY ITS THIRD YEAR, WHEN NAMATH "GUARANTEED" A VICTORY FOR THE UPSTART JETS—THEN DELIVERED, AS PROMISED.

THERE'S LYNN SWANN SPRAWLING TOWARD THE TURF, PICKING A PASS OUT OF MIDAIR AT AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ANGLE.

THE STEELERS AND THE COWBOYS PLAYED AN EPIC GAME IN SUPER BOWL X THAT SEEMED TO INITIATE THE STILL YOUNG SUPER BOWL INTO FULL-BLOWN ADULTHOOD.

THERE'S JOHN RIGGINS SHEDDING A TACKLER AND ABOUT TO WIN XVII WITH A LONG RUN ON FOURTH-AND-1...JOE MONTANA WITH HIS ARMS RAISED IN TRIUMPH AFTER A TOUCHDOWN PASS IN (PICK ONE) XVI, XIX, XXIII, OR XXIV...THE CROWD AT XXV WAVING AMERICAN FLAGS AND WORKING ITSELF INTO A PATRIOTIC FRENZY...STEVE YOUNG CLUTCHING THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY AFTER XXIX AS IF HE'D NEVER LET GO.

WE MEASURE TIME AND CHART MILESTONES WITH SUCH IMAGES. SO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH SUPER BOWL, HERE ARE XXX MEMORIES THAT HAVE HELPED TO DEFINE THE GAME, TO MAKE IT AN INTEGRAL PART OF AMERICAN CULTURE.

YOUR PERSONAL PHOTO ALBUM MAY BE DIFFERENT THAN OURS—THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF IT.

BUT THESE ARE SUBMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...AND LEAVE ROOM FOR MORE MEMORIES IN YEARS TO COME.

There are costs associated with the use of this card. You may contact the issuer and administrator of this program, MBNA America, to request specific information about the costs by calling 1-800-NFL-9929 or writing to MBNA America, P.O. Box 15020, Wilmington, DE 19850. The NFL Shield and "NFL" are registered trademarks of the National Football League. The teamname(s) and logo(s) are registered trademarks of the team(s) indicated. Visa is a federally registered service mark of Visa U.S.A. Inc., used pursuant to license. MBNA America® is a federally registered service mark of MBNA America Bank, N.A.

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AD 10-658-95

1 Namath's "Guarantee"

There have been so many different variations of where, when, and how that only the primary participant can explain how Joe Namath came to guarantee that the underdog New York Jets of the upstart American Football League would beat the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III.

The Jets' quarterback had gone to the Miami Touchdown Club the Thursday preceding the game to accept an award. At the podium, he responded to a heckler, who told him, "Hey, Namath, we're gonna kick your butt."

"I got a little hot," Namath says. "All week I read about how great the Colts were and how we didn't belong on the same field with them. I was tired of it.

"I said, 'Wait a minute, pal, I've got news for you. We're going to win this game. I guarantee it.'"

There's a maxim in sports that you don't do anything that will find its way to the opponents' bulletin board.

Namath crossed that line. Even Jets coach Weeb Ewbank agreed.

"I was upset with Joe," says Ewbank, who believed New York would win the game but also felt that Baltimore coach Don Shula would use Namath's comments to the Colts' advantage.

In the end, it didn't matter, because the Jets simply were a better team that day. Namath's precision passing and Matt Snell's running helped the Jets build a 16-0 lead en route to a shocking 16-7 victory.

2 Montana's Game-Winner

With his team trailing 16-13 late in Super Bowl XXIII, and the ball 92 yards from the goal line, Joe Montana turned to tackle Harris Barton in the 49ers' huddle.

"Hey, Harris," Montana said. "Check it out. There's [actor] John Candy."

The 49ers' quarterback wasn't called Joe Cool for nothing.

Having turned his attention back to the field, Montana quickly led San Francisco to Cincinnati's 18-yard line by completing 6 of 7 passes, the key collaboration a 27-yard strike to Jerry Rice on second-and-20 from the Bengals' 45-yard line.

Next came an 8-yard completion to Roger Craig. The 49ers called time out with the ball on the 10 and 39 seconds remaining.

"We had been hitting Roger Craig underneath so much and they'd been doubling our outside guys," Montana said. "So we tried to get the back underneath again. We had John Taylor run a little up pattern and split the safeties. If the linebackers go deep, you go to Roger. If they don't, you go to John."

This time, the linebackers didn't drop back into coverage. Montana drilled a pass to Taylor in the end zone, giving the 49ers a 20-16 victory in the most dramatic finish in Super Bowl history.

MEMORIES

"I Guarantee It": *Jets quarterback Joe Namath secured his spot in football lore by promising—and delivering—a victory in Super Bowl III.*

VERNON BIEVER

3 Art Rooney Gets a Trophy

In 1933, Art Rooney won $2,500 in a good day at the racetrack, then used the money to purchase an NFL franchise for Pittsburgh.

Rooney could not have foreseen that it would take 41 years before good fortune bestowed a pro football championship on his new team.

Early Steelers teams included stars such as Johnny Blood (McNally), Bill Dudley, Cal Hubbard, and Walt Kiesling—all members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame—but not until 1974, when the Steel Curtain defense began to assert itself, was Rooney's patience rewarded.

Pittsburgh won the AFC Central Division title with a 10-3-1 record in 1974, then defeated Buffalo and Oakland in the postseason to earn the right to play Minnesota in Super Bowl IX. The Steelers beat the Vikings 16-6 behind a defense that permitted only 17 rushing yards and 119 total yards.

"This is the biggest win of my life," the 73-year-old Rooney said as he accepted the Vince Lombardi Trophy from NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle.

"I'm not ashamed to admit that I had tears in my eyes when I presented the trophy to Art Rooney that day," Rozelle said later. "No man ever deserved it more."

4 Lombardi's Farewell

Before Super Bowl I, Vince Lombardi felt the weight of the NFL world on his shoulders. After II, his Packers carried him off the field on their shoulders.

Lombardi, Green Bay's legendary coach, was chatting with CBS television announcer Frank Gifford as Green Bay prepared to meet Kansas City in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game (the term "Super Bowl" was not officially adopted until three years later).

"During the five minutes or so we talked," Gifford says, "he held on to my arm and he was shaking like a leaf."

But the Packers had little trouble disposing of the Kansas City Chiefs in I, winning 35-10. The Oakland Raiders didn't have much more fight in them in II, falling 33-14.

The Packers thus defended the honor of the NFL, and joined their 1929-1931 ancestors as the only teams to win three consecutive league titles (the Packers had won the NFL championship in 1965).

Though there never was any official word, it was apparent to Green Bay's players that Super Bowl II would be Lombardi's final game as coach. He was the club's general manager for a year, then coached the Redskins for one season before he

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was felled by cancer at age 57 in 1970.

As time ran out in the victory over the Raiders, Packers guard Jerry Kramer and tackle Forrest Gregg lifted their coach onto their shoulders.

"This is the best way to leave a football field," Lombardi said.

5 Dolphins' Perfect Finish

During the 1972 season, Dolphins linebacker Nick Buoniconti and his teammates joked about a perfect record.

"Which game are we gonna lose?" they'd ask. "Nobody goes undefeated."

A few came close. In 1934, the Bears went 13-0 during the regular season, only to lose 30-13 to the Giants in the championship game. Eight years later the Bears won all 11 regular-season games but fell to the Redskins 14-6 in the title game. Four other teams in the NFL's formative years were unbeaten, but not untied.

The '72 Dolphins were going to be the first perfect team?

Miami had reached the Super Bowl the previous season, but had been badly outclassed by the Dallas Cowboys 24-3. And while the Dolphins were blessed with efficient Bob Griese at quarterback, Paul Warfield at wide receiver, and running backs Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick, and Eugene (Mercury) Morris, Miami was so devoid of stars on defense that the unit was dubbed the "No-Name Defense."

To complicate matters, Griese was lost in week 5 for the remainder of the regular season. Earl Morrall, a 38-year-old backup was thrust into duty.

Nevertheless, the Dolphins were 16-0 and on the verge of making history after they rallied past the Pittsburgh Steelers 21-17 in the AFC Championship Game. Still, they entered Super Bowl VII as underdogs to the Washington Redskins.

"That was the final indignity," Csonka said.

Their 14-7 victory over the Redskins in Super Bowl VII was not as close as the final score indicated.

"If [another] team is good enough to go undefeated, more power to them," says Griese, who returned in the AFC title game and quarterbacked the Dolphins in the Super Bowl. "We'll always be the *first* to have done it. No one can take that away from us."

6 Riggins's Run

Everyone knew who was going to run the football. The only question was left, right, or up the middle?

On fourth-and-1 from Miami's 43-yard line, and trailing 17-13 five minutes into the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XVII, the Washington Redskins were going for it.

Comic Relief: *Fortunately for the Dolphins, kicker Garo Yepremian's bungle in Super Bowl VII had no effect on the outcome of the game.*

DAVE BOSS/NFLP

"They knew it, you knew it, I knew it—everybody knew where the ball was going," says Redskins running back John Riggins, the man who would carry the football.

This was hardly top-secret stuff. Riggins had been a workhorse for Washington, especially in the postseason. He thrived in the Redskins' one-back offense, running behind a massive line called "The Hogs." In consecutive playoff victories over the Lions, Vikings, and Cowboys, he carried 25 times for 119 yards, 37 times for 185 yards, and 36 times for 140 yards.

In the defining moment of Super Bowl XVII, he carried again.

Riggins moved left, then straight-armed Dolphins cornerback Don McNeal and broke free down the sideline for a 43-yard touchdown run to give Washington a permanent lead. The Redskins went on to win 27-17.

7 Yepremian's Bungle

Dolphins kicker Garo Yepremian was lining up for a field goal late in Super Bowl VII, a 42-yard attempt that would give his team a 17-0 lead en route to a 17-0 season, the only perfect season in NFL history.

Suddenly, the perfect order was disrupted. The kick was blocked. Yepremian scooped up the ball and made a comical attempt at a pass, the ball squirting out of his hands directly to Washington defensive back Mike Bass, who raced 49 yards with the fumble for a touchdown.

"You pick up the ball in a situation like that and your mind goes blank," Yepremian said. "I don't know who I was trying to throw to. I thought I gave the game away."

The Redskins got the ball again at their own 30 with 1:14 left to play, but, from their 30-yard line with no time outs, they managed only to lose 13 yards before time expired. Yepremian's bungle was no more than high comic relief.

Even he managed a smile after the game. The Cyprus-born Yepremian, who moonlighted as a necktie salesman, saw opportunity in the charade.

"I had to do something to get publicity for my business," he joked.

8 Williams's 4 TD Passes

An unimpressive first quarter by the Washington Redskins provided no warning to the Denver Broncos of what would transpire in the second quarter of Super Bowl XXII.

Denver scored a touchdown on its first play from scrimmage, added a field goal, and led 10-0 after 15 minutes. By halftime, Washington had a 35-10 advantage—and the Broncos barely knew what had hit them.

Doug Williams wielded a series of mighty right hooks. The Redskins' quarterback began with an 80-yard touchdown pass to Ricky Sanders 53 seconds into the second quarter. Three minutes and 52 seconds later, Williams threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Gary Clark.

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(A JOURNEY THROUGH BOTSWANA'S OKAVANGO DELTA.)

Recently we subjected the new Nissan Pathfinder to one of the toughest test-drives imaginable: a 5,000-mile safari across Africa. Our journey treated us to incredible wildlife, breathtaking landscapes and some of the poorest excuses for roads you can imagine. Over the next few months, we'll share highlights, lowlights, our favorite destinations and survival tips. We may even mention a word or two about the vehicle that took us there and back in one piece. Today's story, as the saying goes, begins in Botswana.

BOTSWANA

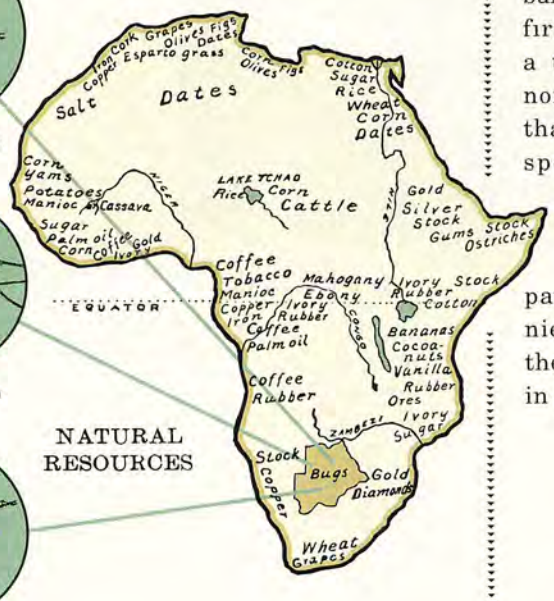
WITH OVER 85% of his country covered in sand, scorching temperatures that routinely soar over 115° F, and roads that have never seen an ounce of asphalt, Botswana's Minister of Tourism would seem to have his work cut out for him. Add the ubiquitous mosquitoes and voracious tsetse flies and you'd think he'd quit and find a new job.

Indeed, you'll find few souls adventurous enough to visit this rough and tumble country. But for us, Botswana was the perfect place to prove the mettle of the new Nissan Pathfinder.

THE DREADED TSETSE FLY

THE DREADED MOSQUITO

THE DREADED TICK



NATURAL RESOURCES

Our jumping-off point for the Okavango Delta was a small frontier town called Maun where, as our Pathfinder's built-in compass confirmed, we caught a two-lane road north. It took us only a few minutes to surmise that Botswana's Minister of Transportation must spend most of his time consoling the country's Minister of Tourism, for just two miles out of Maun the tarred road abruptly ends and turns to sand. Indeed, since there is no pavement or gas station or traffic sign or convenience mart for the long, slow 75-mile drive into the delta, we recommend keeping the Pathfinder in 4WD and bringing along a good collection of CD's.

BOTSWANA TRAVEL TIPS:

1. Beware of bull elephants.
2. Beware of crocodiles.
3. Beware of deep sand.
4. Beware of deep mud.
5. Beware of everything else.

We arrived in Botswana on September 30th, which was, auspiciously, "Botswana Day." Our intended destination was the northwest corner of the country, where Angola's Okavango River spills into Botswana's sands and forms the Okavango Delta: the largest inland delta in the world. Here, we were told, temperatures only reached 105° and any discomfort would be recompensed by the hundreds of different animal species that inhabit this wildlife oasis. (And, of course, the fact we could set our automatic temperature control on a more humane 72°F.)

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LOCAL BOTSWANAN SNACK.

A common local treat is the Mopani worm. To prepare, cook in hot ash for 15 minutes, boil in salt water, then place in the sun until dry. (Note: Chefs pressed for time can simply serve small pieces of cardboard.)

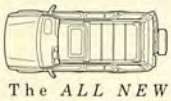
Any curse words uttered in the direction of Botswana's transportation department, however, were quickly retracted as we entered the primordial delta. The terrain, although challenging to man, machine and anti-perspirant, is home to an incredible array of wildlife. On our first day alone, we saw elephants, giraffe, hippos, zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, gazelle and warthogs – the latter of which (DRIVING ALERT) burrow dens into the ground that put New York potholes to shame.

The following days were spent four-wheeling through the thick sand and soggy marshes that pass for roads in Botswana, and observing the area's elephant herds. We're pleased to report that the Pathfinder's increased horsepower and torque handled the terrain with ease, the newly improved suspension system made mincemeat of the bumps, and, aesthetically speaking, our vehicle looked quite sharp covered in Okavango mud. We should also add, immodestly, that we learned enough trivia about the Family Elephantidae to ensure us a spot on the final round of Jeopardy. (Did you know African elephants eat 16 hours a day? That's a lot of peanuts!)

Leaving the Okavango Delta sweatier, itcher and wiser, we have only the kindest of words for Botswana. Sure, the roads are lousy and the tsetse flies bite hard. But as a break from vacation crowds, few places compare.

SAFARI SAFETY BULLETIN

Refrain from using the Pathfinder's horn whilst driving through an elephant herd. The sound is like that of an elephant in distress, and may cause the herd to stampede in your direction. Even though the Pathfinder features chip-resistant paint, this would not be a good thing . . . . . .



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Percentage of Dirt Roads

Percentage of Paved Roads

Pathfinder drivers desiring to visit the Okavango can call their local travel agent or, if phone bills are no object, Botswana's Department of Tourism at 011-267-353024. We're sure the Minister of Tourism would love to hear from you.

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After a 58-yard touchdown run midway through the quarter by rookie Timmy Smith, Williams teamed with Sanders on a 50-yard touchdown pass. He finished off the Broncos with an 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Clint Didier shortly before halftime.

Washington needed only 18 plays to score the 5 touchdowns, with total possession time of only 5:47. Comfortably ahead, the Redskins were content to run out the clock in the second half, winning 42-10.

Williams was named the game's most valuable player after completing 18 of 29 passes for 340 yards and 4 touchdowns.

9 O'Brien's Winning Kick

Super Bowl lore is filled with grace-under-pressure stories, heroic accounts of players with ice coursing through their veins. Joe Montana was one of those players. Lynn Swann was another.

Jim O'Brien was not.

O'Brien, a rookie kicker for the Colts, was so nervous before trying the game-winning, 32-yard field goal in the final seconds of Super Bowl V that he tried to pull up blades of grass to gauge the wind. The game was played on artificial turf.

"I sat on the bench for the whole game hoping it wouldn't come down to me," O'Brien later conceded.

Baltimore tackle Billy Ray Smith didn't help matters.

"In the huddle, he pointed at O'Brien and reminded him his kick would be worth three-hundred grand [the 40-man roster's total for the difference between the winning and losing shares]," Colts quarterback Earl Morrall said.

Afterwards, O'Brien admitted to hating to kick on the artificial turf of the Orange Bowl. And, he said, "I wasn't crazy about the distance, either. That's my bad zone."

O'Brien's kick with five seconds left gave Baltimore a 16-13 victory.

10 49ers' Goal-Line Stand

When it comes down to basics, football is an irresistible force (offense) against an immovable object (defense).

And when those two clash near the goal line, it often can be great theater.

The most notable goal-line stand in Super Bowl history came in the third quarter of San Francisco's 26-21 victory over the Bengals in Super Bowl XVI.

After building a 20-0 halftime lead, the 49ers suddenly were on their heels. The Bengals had trimmed the deficit to 20-7, and were on the verge of scoring again after driving to a first down at San Francisco's 3-yard line.

MEMORIES

Celebration: *Ronnie Lott (42) jumps for joy after Dan Bunz (57), Archie Reese (78), and the 49ers stopped the Bengals at the goal line in XVI.*

On first down, 250-pound fullback Pete Johnson bulled his way to the 1. On second down, linebacker Jack (Hacksaw) Reynolds stopped Johnson for no gain.

On third down, Cincinnati quarterback Ken Anderson threw a swing pass to running back Charles Alexander, who caught the ball, then was flattened by linebacker Dan Bunz just short of the goal line.

"It was as good a defensive play as I've ever seen," then-49ers defensive coordinator Chuck Studley says. "I'll never forget it."

He'll never forget the next one, either. With the ball still at the 1, Bunz stuffed Alexander, the lead blocker, and Reynolds crashed into Johnson, stopping him short of the goal line. Defensive tackle Archie Reese squirmed for joy atop the pile. The 49ers had held.

11 Swann's Miracle Catch

If anyone could make one forget that football is a violent game, it was Lynn Swann.

The Pittsburgh Steelers' wide receiver brought style and grace to his position—and a penchant for making his biggest catches in the biggest games.

The ultimate was his gravity-defying, 53-yard circus catch against the Cowboys in Super Bowl X.

A few days before the game Swann didn't even know if he'd be able to play because of a concussion suffered in a victory over the Raiders in the AFC Championship Game.

"I'm worried about my timing," he told Steelers wide receiver John Stallworth. "And my concentration isn't real good, either."

But late in the second quarter, Swann timed his leap, concentrated, and lunged for the pass from Terry Bradshaw. Swann grabbed the ball while he was horizontal to the turf.

Though the catch had no tangible effect on the outcome of the game (Roy Gerela missed a field-goal attempt a few plays later), it left the Cowboys shaking their heads. Swann went on to catch 4 passes for 161 yards, including a decisive 64-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. The Steelers won 21-17.

VERNON BIEVER

12 Norwood Just Misses

If the ball had gone a few feet to the left, David Letterman would have lost a hundred jokes. There would be no comparisons to the Minnesota Vikings and Denver Broncos.

This was Super Bowl XXV, the first time the Buffalo Bills had reached the big game, and Scott Norwood had lined up with eight seconds left for a 47-yard field goal attempt that would mean victory.

Already, it had been a dramatic Super Bowl. The crowd was treated to a test of wills between the Bills' furious No-Huddle offense and the New York Giants' methodical, ball-control attack.

New York played much of the game on its terms, taking a 20-19

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lead by averaging 12 plays and 74 yards on its four scoring drives, including a mammoth 14-play, 75-yard march that consumed the first 9:29 of the second half.

True to form, the Bills stayed close by striking quickly, averaging fewer than 2½ minutes on their three scoring drives (they also got a safety). It was a story as old as the tortoise and the hare. Only this time, the hare still had a chance to win.

Quarterback Jim Kelly drove the Bills 61 yards to the Giants' 29-yard line in the final two minutes.

Norwood's kick was long enough, but it sailed just to the right.

13 Allen's 74-Yard TD Run

Sometimes, it's like they draw it up on the chalkboard. Sometimes it's not.

"Run left, run into wall of tacklers, cut back right, dart up middle, outrace everybody," probably wasn't in the Raiders' playbook for Super Bowl XVIII against Washington. But it was the play that clinched Los Angeles's 38-9 victory.

The Redskins' juggernaut had won 14 of 16 games and amassed 541 points during the 1983 regular season. So even as the Raiders built a 28-9 lead in the third quarter, the specter of the Redskins' explosive offense loomed.

But Allen put the game out of reach with his second touchdown of the game, a 74-yard breakaway on the final play of the third period.

Allen finished the day with a record 191 yards on only 20 carries, and was named the game's most valuable player.

14 Young's 6 TD Passes

It's not much of a stretch to say that 49ers quarterback Steve Young was battling Joe Montana in Super Bowl XXIX almost as much as he was the San Diego Chargers.

Young had a better overall statistical year in 1994 than any other quarterback in NFL history, with a record passer rating of 112.8. He led the league in passing for a record fourth consecutive year, and he was virtually a unanimous choice as the NFL's MVP for the second time.

But he'd yet to win a Super Bowl, and in the eyes of most 49ers fans, that left his stature less than Montanaesque.

Against the Chargers, however, Young pushed that last obstacle aside, passing for 325 yards and a record 6 touchdowns in San Francisco's 49-26 rout. "I can't describe the feeling," Young said afterwards.

MEMORIES

Super Southpaw: *Steve Young threw a record 6 touchdown passes in the 49ers' 49-26 victory over the Chargers in Super Bowl XXIX last January.*

15 Unforgettable Anthem

Perhaps not since the end of World War II had America worked itself into such a patriotic fervor.

In January, 1991, United States military forces were engaged in Operation Desert Storm, and the national spirit on display at Super Bowl XXV in Tampa, Florida, was overwhelming.

Despite the threat of terrorism, which warranted extraordinary security measures in and around the stadium, emotions ran high, and American flags waved throughout the stands.

A 30-yard-long American flag was composed of umbrellas carried by cast members of the pregame show, which concluded with recording artist Whitney Houston's stirring rendition of the National Anthem.

16 Super Bowl Shuffle

A half-century from now, they'll still be talking about the 1985 Chicago Bears. Oh sure, they were a dominant team that won 15 of 16 games during the regular season, and their performance in Super Bowl XX was overwhelming. But great teams come and go—indeed, the Bears' dynasty crumbled the next season.

It was the character of the '85 Bears that set this team apart. From swashbuckling quarterback Jim McMahon to fiery coach Mike Ditka, this was a charismatic team that enthralled millions.

The Bears were so supremely confident of their destiny that they recorded a rap song, *The Super Bowl Shuffle*, weeks before the end of the regular season.

By halftime of Super Bowl XX, Chicago had a 23-3 lead en route to an overwhelming 46-10 rout of the New England Patriots. A crowd of 73,818 rocked the Louisiana Superdome at the intermission with its stomping and singing:

"We're not here to start no trouble.

"We're just here to do the Super Bowl Shuffle!"

TONY TOMSIC

17 Jackie Smith's Drop

Tight end Jackie Smith played for the St. Louis Cardinals for 15 seasons (1963-1977), before finishing his career in Dallas (1978). He made the Pro Bowl five times. He helped revolutionize his position. He caught 480 passes. He dropped 1.

Okay, maybe he dropped a few more than that. But the point is, Smith's career—as evidenced by his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994—is not defined by one dropped pass in his final game.

Unfortunately for Smith, his gaffe occurred on the Super Bowl stage, where both good and bad deeds are magnified beyond reality.

Trailing 21-14 late in the third quarter of Super Bowl XIII, Dallas drove to Pittsburgh's 10-yard line. On third down, on a special play installed for Smith, he came open over the middle, but dropped a perfect pass from Roger Staubach and

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anguished in the end zone. The Cowboys kicked a field goal.

The missed opportunity came back to haunt Dallas, which eventually lost 35-31.

18 McGee's Surprise

There was no reason for Max McGee to believe he would play a big role in Green Bay's 35-10 victory over Kansas City in Super Bowl I. The 11-year-veteran wide receiver caught only 4 passes during the regular season in 1966.

"I knew I wouldn't play unless [Boyd] Dowler got hurt," he says.

So McGee had himself a good time the days (and nights) prior to the game, regularly breaking curfew. He stayed out until 7:30 A.M. on the day of the game. Then the unthinkable happened. Dowler suffered a separated shoulder while throwing a block on the opening series.

Thrust into duty, McGee responded with the aplomb of a man who caught 345 passes in his career.

On the Packers' next series, he reached out with one hand to grab a pass from Bart Starr to complete a 37-yard touchdown for the first points ever scored in a Super Bowl. His juggling, 13-yard touchdown catch in the last minute of the third-quarter put the game out of reach at 28-10. McGee finished the day with 7 catches for 138 yards.

19 The King of Pop

Two national and international blockbusters—the Super Bowl and Michael Jackson—came together at game XXVII in Pasadena. Jackson rocked the Rose Bowl with a halftime show called "Heal the World."

Jackson was joined by thousands of southern California-area youngsters in a dazzling display of music, special effects, and illusion that made this halftime performance a real thriller.

20 Simms's Sterling Passing

On one super day, Phil Simms came about as close to football perfection as is humanly possible.

In Super Bowl XXI against the Denver Broncos in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, the Giants' quarterback completed 22 of 25 passes for 268 yards and 3 touchdowns. He was named the most valuable player of New York's 39-20 victory.

"I remember [coach Bill] Parcells standing behind me at practice on Friday and saying, 'Oh, you are ready! You are ready!'" Simms says.

Simms completed all 6 of his pass attempts on a touchdown drive the first time New York had the ball.

By halftime, he had completed 12 of 15 passes. Then he stepped it up a notch in the final two quarters, when he completed all 10 of his attempts to rally the Giants from a 10-9 deficit.

MEMORIES

Almost Perfect: *Giants quarterback Phil Simms completed 22 of 25 passes in a masterful performance against Denver in Super Bowl XXI.*

21 49ers First to Win 5

Most experts believed the San Francisco 49ers would win an unprecedented fifth Super Bowl in game XXIX against the San Diego Chargers last January. The Chargers were a gritty, determined team playing in their first Super Bowl. But the 49ers scored 505 points in the regular season, and dethroned the two-time champion Cowboys in the postseason.

Any doubt about the outcome was dispelled on the game's third play. Quarterback Steve Young's 44-yard bomb to Jerry Rice put the 49ers ahead for good only 1:24 into the game.

San Francisco would go on to generate 7 touchdowns, 28 first downs, and 455 total yards. The 49ers eclipsed the record of four Super Bowl victories they shared with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Dallas Cowboys.

22 Montana's Third MVP

Joe Montana played in four Super Bowls, and led the 49ers to four victories. Ironically, the only game in which he *wasn't* named the most valuable player—the award for game XXIII went to wide receiver Jerry Rice—was one in which he passed for 357 yards and 2 touchdowns, including the game-winner in the final minute.

"I don't want to call him a god," Bengals wide receiver Cris Collinsworth said, "but he's not human, either."

He was quietly efficient while winning his first MVP award in Super Bowl XVI, completing 14 of 22 passes for 157 yards and a touchdown in San Francisco's 26-21 victory over the Bengals. In XIX, he passed for 331 yards and 3 touchdowns, and ran for 59 yards and another touchdown in a 38-16 rout of the Dolphins.

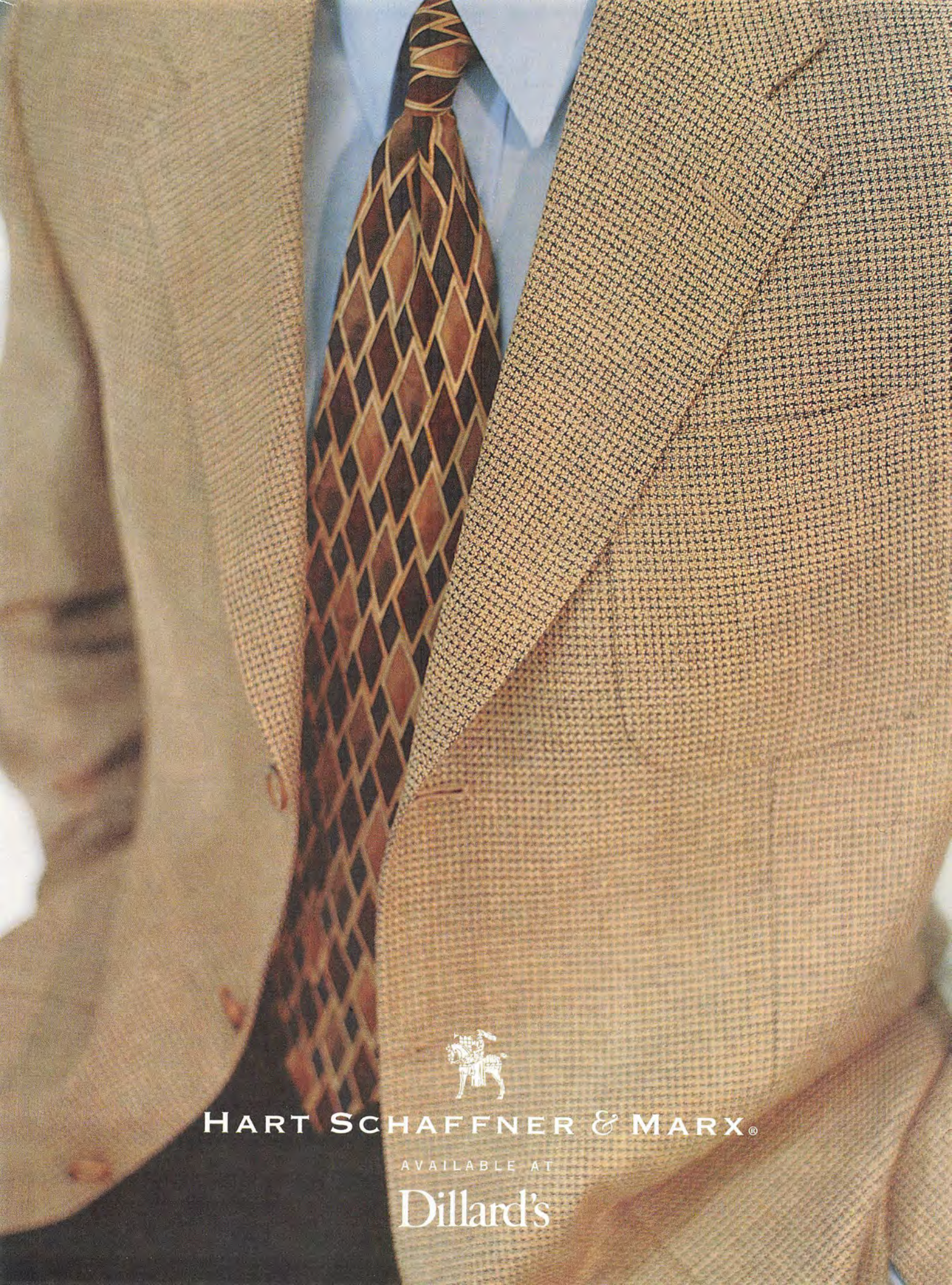
But he saved the best for last. In Super Bowl XXIV against the Denver Broncos, Montana was named MVP for an unprecedented third time when he completed 22 of 29 passes for 297 yards and 5 touchdowns in a 55-10 victory.

23 Telecast: 49.1 Rating

Pro football and television have had a mutually beneficial relationship since the nationally televised 1958 NFL Championship Game (see related story; The NFL and TV, page 216) put football on the map. The Super Bowl has made the marriage ever happier.

Football is the undisputed king of sports on TV—14 of the 15 top-rated televised sporting events are Super Bowls. Of the top 15 television programs of all time, nine are Super Bowls.

In January, 1982, the matchup of Cinderella teams San Francisco and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Cincinnati in Super Bowl XVI scored a Nielsen rating of 49.1, the highest ever for a live event.

24 Bradshaw's Bomb

Super Bowl XIV was the fourth in six seasons for the Pittsburgh Steelers. But the feeling was different this time.

"We had a great thing going," Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw says, "but I think we were all smart enough to realize that this wasn't going to last forever."

There was a sense of urgency when the Steelers entered the fourth quarter trailing the underdog Los Angeles Rams 19-17 at the Rose Bowl.

Pittsburgh regained the lead with one big play. On third-and-8 from the Steelers' 27-yard line, Bradshaw ran a play called 60-Prevent-Slot-Hook-and-Go.

"I really didn't think it would work," he says. "I don't think I completed it once all week in practice."

This time it did. John Stallworth took off deep over the middle, Bradshaw's pass just eluded cornerback Rod Perry's outstretched arms, and Stallworth gathered it in to complete a 73-yard touchdown. The Steelers went on to win 31-19.

25 Beebe Catches Lett

Every kid who ever wanted to stand up to the neighborhood bully can appreciate Don Beebe's effort in Super Bowl XXVII.

The score was 52-17, and Buffalo was minutes away from earning the dubious distinction as the first team to lose three consecutive Super Bowls.

Dallas exploded in the fourth quarter, with 3 touchdowns in a 2½-minute span. And when Leon Lett scooped up a fumble at the Cowboys' 35 and took off downfield, it looked as if it would get worse.

Beebe, the Bills' wide receiver, started 30 yards behind Lett but chased him down and caught him near the goal line. Just as Lett began a premature touchdown celebration, Beebe stripped the ball away, forcing a touchback.

26 Balloon Bursts

In festivities prior to Super Bowl IV between the Vikings and the Chiefs, a hot-air balloon race ended abruptly when the Vikings' balloon crashed into the stands.

Later, Minnesota's planned coronation as pro football champions—a given considering the Vikings' 12-2 record during the 1969 regular season—also failed to materialize. The Vikings' balloon was deflated 23-7 by the upstart Chiefs in the last game played between the NFL and the AFL (the leagues merged the next year). It was the first of four Super Bowl losses for Minnesota.

MEMORIES

Never Give Up: *Despite a lopsided score, Buffalo's Don Beebe (82) denied Dallas's Leon Lett a touchdown in Super Bowl XXVII.*

PETER READ MILLER

27 Yellow-Ribbon Day

When the Hostage Crisis in Iran ended only days before the Oakland Raiders and Philadelphia Eagles were to play in Super Bowl XV at the Louisiana Superdome, the NFL welcomed home the captives in a big way, wrapping the stadium with a huge yellow ribbon. Raiders and Eagles players also wore yellow tape on their helmets.

28 Dawson's Vindication

For days before Super Bowl IV, the rumors swirled: The Justice Department would call Len Dawson to testify as part of a special task force investigating gambling.

Dawson, the Kansas City Chiefs' quarterback, was deeply disturbed by the insinuations. The NFL's internal investigation had turned up no wrongdoing, but in a climate in which accusation equaled guilt, he already felt that he had been tried and convicted in the a court of public opinion.

"It was, beyond a doubt, the toughest week of my life," Dawson says.

It hardly showed on Sunday, however. Dawson completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards to lead the Chiefs to a 23-7 upset of the heavily favored Vikings and was selected the game's MVP.

29 Refrigerator's TD

San Francisco coach Bill Walsh used guard Guy McIntyre as a blocking back in goal-line situations in the 49ers' victory over the Chicago Bears in the 1984 NFC title game.

Bears coach Mike Ditka, a man with a long memory, exacted a measure of revenge by using William (Refrigerator) Perry, a 300-pound defensive tackle, in the same role in a victory over the 49ers the next year.

Perry went on to become a cult hero, and Ditka showcased his rookie in Super Bowl XX.

As the game against the Patriots got out of hand—the Bears won 46-10—the only lingering doubt was whether Perry would score a touchdown. His chance came with the score 37-3 and the ball at New England's 1-yard line late in the third quarter. On first-and-goal, Perry took a handoff from quarterback Jim McMahon, and barreled into the end zone.

30 TV Advertising

The NFL's biggest game literally is the Super Bowl of advertising, too, and at Super Bowl XX in January, 1986, the cost for one minute of advertising topped $1 million for the first time in television history (ads for Super Bowl XXIX cost nearly $1.2 million for *30 seconds*).

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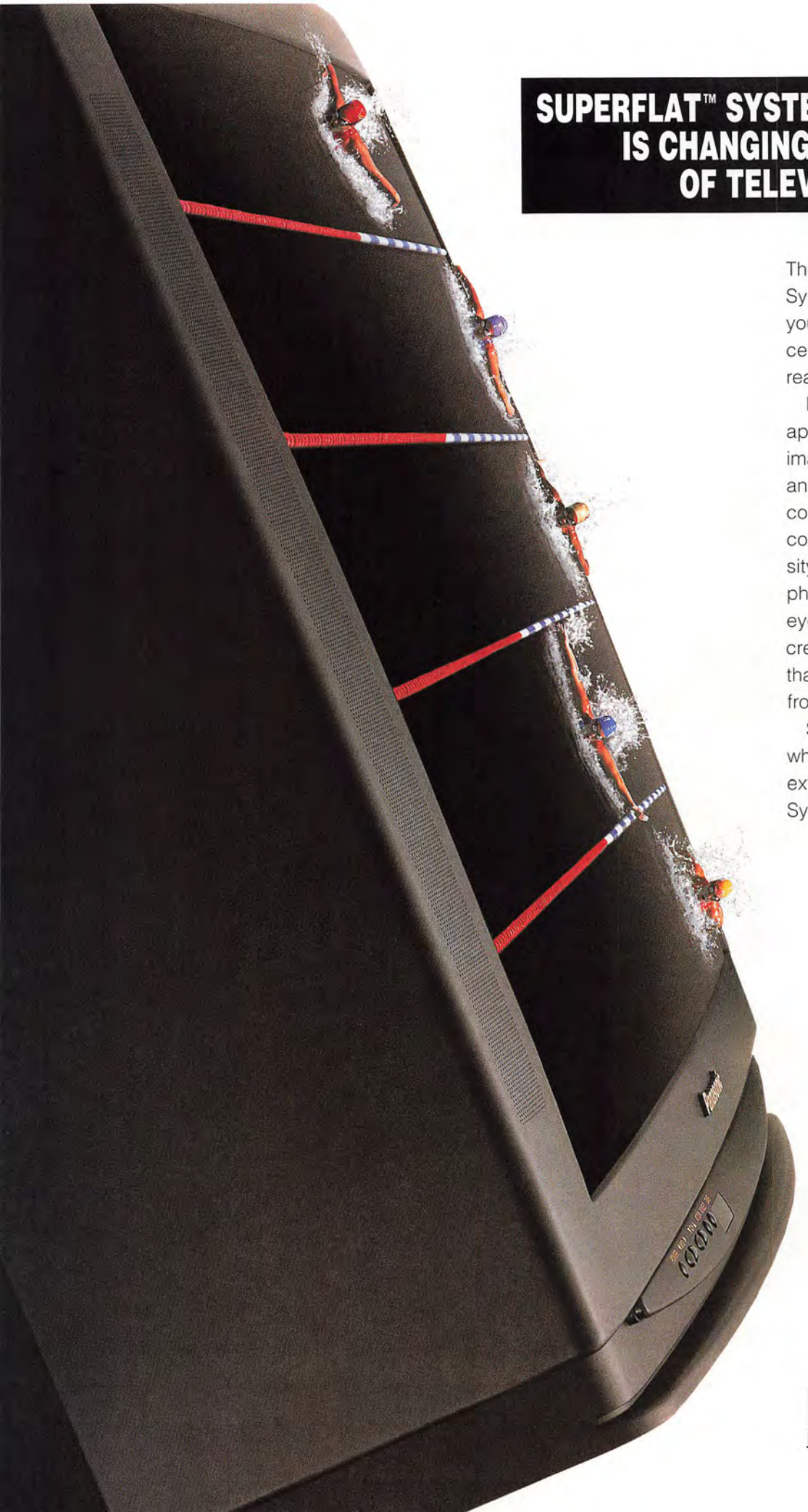

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Winners' and Losers' Share
(per player)

I	X	XX	XXX
$15,000 (LOSER $7,500)	$15,000 (LOSER $7,500)	$36,000 (LOSER $18,000)	$42,000 (LOSER $27,000)

Average Weight of an Offensive Lineman
(in pounds)

I	X	XX	XXX
255	253	272.5	298.5*

Average Ticket Price

I	X	XX	XXX
$10	$20	$75	$275

U.S. TV Viewing Audience

I	X	XX	XXX
75,450,000	73,260,000	127,055,000	135,000,000*

Price of Game Program

I	X	XX	XXX
$1	$5	$5	$12

THE March of Time

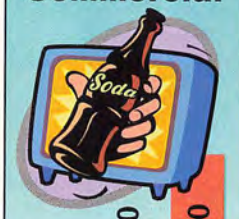
Super Bowl Then...And Now

As the NFL celebrates Super Bowl XXX, here are side-by-side comparisons to other milestone games

First World Championship Game AFL vs NFL

SUPER BOWL X

Cost of a 30-second Commercial



I	X	XX	XXX
$42,500	$110,000	$550,000	$1.2 MILLION*

	SUPER BOWL I	SUPER BOWL X	SUPER BOWL XX	SUPER BOWL XXX
Date:	1/15/67	1/18/76	1/26/86	1/28/96
Site:	Los Angeles	Miami	New Orleans	Phoenix
Result:	Green Bay 35	Pittsburgh 21	Chicago 46	•
	Kansas City 10	Dallas 17	New England 10	•
MVP:	Bart Starr	Lynn Swann	Richard Dent	•
Attendance:	61,946	80,187	73,818	74,000*
Did You Know?	The game wasn't called the Super Bowl. Officially, it was called the First AFL-NFL World Championship. (It wasn't Super Bowl until IV.)	Both head coaches (Chuck Noll & Tom Landry) and both starting quarterbacks (Terry Bradshaw & Roger Staubach) were future Hall of Famers.	The Bears starred in their own music video "Super Bowl Shuffle" created especially to celebrate the occasion.	This is the first Super Bowl in Phoenix, and the first to be played on the campus of a state university.

(*Facts and figures for Super Bowl XXX have been estimated where necessary.)

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHNEE BEE

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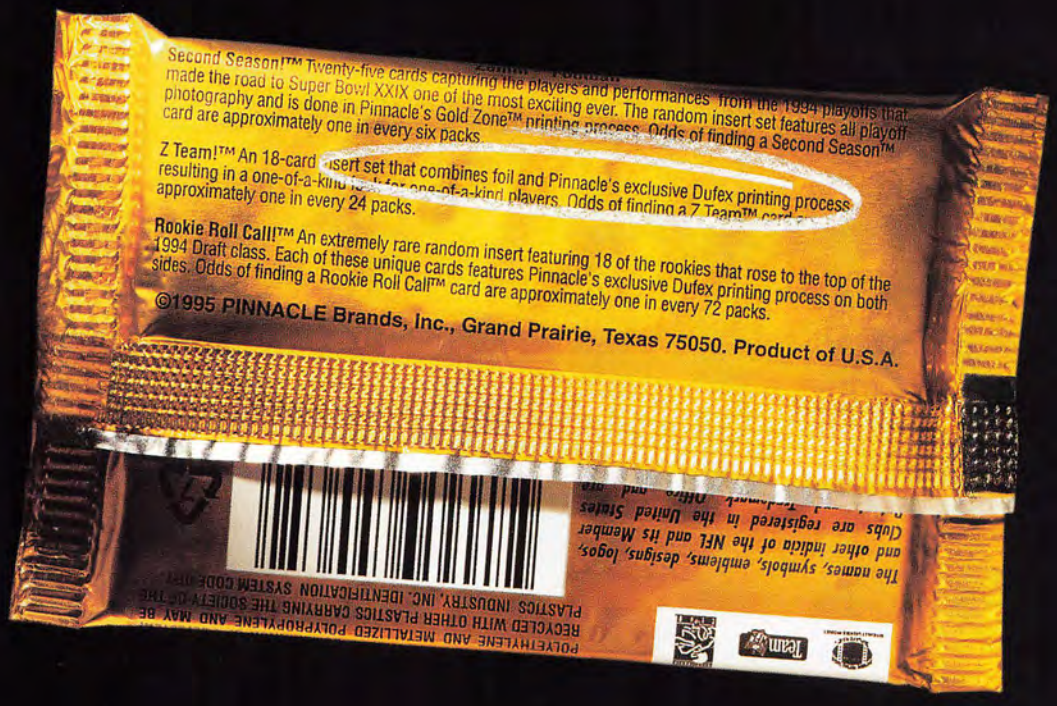
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1994 Draft class. Each of these unique cards features Pinnacle's exclusive Dufex printing process on both
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49ERS WIN FIFTH IN XXIX

SUPER BOWL XXIX

SAN FRANCISCO 49, SAN DIEGO 26

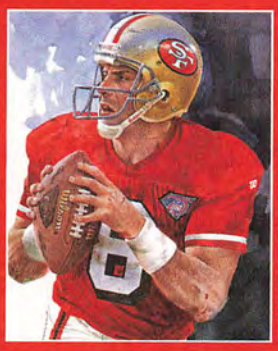


ILLUSTRATION BY MERV CORNING

Steve Young passed for a record 6 touchdowns.

Steve Young passed for 325 yards and a Super Bowl-record 6 touchdowns, and rushed for a game-high 49 yards on 5 carries as the 49ers became the first team to win five Super Bowls.

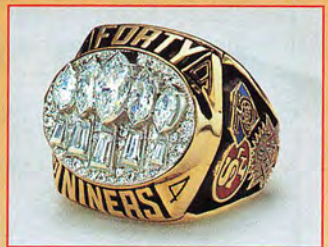
Young threw 4 of his scoring passes in the first half, when San Francisco bolted to a 28-10 lead and never looked back.

The 49ers' Jerry Rice and Ricky Watters each scored a Super Bowl-record-tying 3 touchdowns. Despite suffering a slightly separated shoulder in the first half, Rice caught touchdown passes of 44, 15, and 7 yards. Watters caught 51- and 8-yard touchdown passes and ran 9 yards for another score.

The 49ers took the quickest 14-0 lead in Super Bowl history when Young hit Rice and Watters with 44- and 51-yard touchdown passes in the game's first 4:55.

Chargers rookie Andre Coleman tied a Super Bowl record with a 98-yard kickoff return for a third-quarter touchdown. Coleman's 242 kickoff-return yards for the game set a record.

The teams combined for a Super Bowl record 75 points.



January 29, 1995
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami
Attendance: 74,107

San Diego	7	3	8	8	–26
San Francisco	14	14	14	7	–49

MVP: **Steve Young, QB, San Francisco**
Winning Coach: **George Seifert**

KEVIN TEARELL/NFLP

SUPER BOWL XXVIII

DALLAS 30, BUFFALO 13

Dallas safety James Washington's 46-yard fumble return for a touchdown turned around the game.

JAMES D. SMITH

Emmitt Smith and Dallas dominated the second half.

The Cowboys trailed 13-6 in the first minute of the third quarter when defensive tackle Leon Lett stripped the ball from Buffalo's Thurman Thomas. Washington recovered and raced for the tying touchdown. Emmitt Smith, who rushed for 132 yards, then scored on 15- and 1-yard runs as Dallas took the lead for good.

By winning for the second consecutive year, Dallas joined Pittsburgh and San Francisco as the only franchises to win four Super Bowls. The Bills, the first team to play in four consecutive Super Bowls, lost their fourth in a row.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

January 30, 1994
Georgia Dome, Atlanta
Attendance: 72,817

DALLAS	6	0	14	10	–30
BUFFALO	3	10	0	0	–13

MVP: Emmitt Smith, RB, Dallas
Winning Coach: Jimmy Johnson

SUPER BOWL XXVII

DALLAS 52, BUFFALO 17

The Cowboys forced a record 9 turnovers and converted them into 35 points to hand the Bills their third consecutive Super Bowl loss.

Troy Aikman passed for 4 touchdowns—including a pair (19 and 18 yards) to Michael Irvin—and Emmitt Smith rushed for 108 yards and another score in Dallas's lopsided victory.

The Cowboys also scored twice on defense as tackle Jimmie Jones and linebacker Ken Norton, Jr., returned fumbles for touchdowns. In all, Dallas recovered 5 fumbles and intercepted 4 passes.

It was the third Super Bowl victory for Dallas in a record six appearances.

Troy Aikman passed for 4 touchdowns as the Cowboys breezed.

January 31, 1993
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Attendance: 98,374

BUFFALO	7	3	7	0	–17
DALLAS	14	14	3	21	–52

MVP: Troy Aikman, QB, Dallas
Winning Coach: Jimmy Johnson

SUPER BOWL XXVI

WASHINGTON 37, BUFFALO 24

Washington's Joe Gibbs became the third coach to win as many as three Super Bowls. Remarkably, he did it with his third different quarterback.

Mark Rypien's passing helped Washington take a 24-0, third-quarter lead.

This time it was Mark Rypien, who passed for 292 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Redskins jumped to a 24-0 third-quarter lead and never looked back. Rypien's scoring passes went 10 yards to Earnest Byner and 30 yards to Gary Clark.

Washington led 17-0 at halftime, then linebacker Kurt Gouveia intercepted a pass by Jim Kelly on the first play of the third quarter. He returned the ball 23 yards to the Bills' 2, setting up the second of Gerald Riggs's 2 short touchdown runs.

January 26, 1992
Metrodome, Minneapolis
Attendance: 63,130

WASHINGTON	0	17	14	6	–37
BUFFALO	0	0	10	14	–24

MVP: Mark Rypien, QB, Washington
Winning Coach: Joe Gibbs

SUPER BOWL XXV

N.Y. GIANTS 20, BUFFALO 19

The Silver-Anniversary Super Bowl was one to remember.

It wasn't decided until Buffalo's Scott Norwood missed a 47-yard field goal with four seconds left. A 21-yard field goal by New York's Matt Bahr midway through the final quarter provided the decisive points.

In winning, the Giants controlled the ball for a Super Bowl-record 40 minutes and 33 seconds, with Ottis Anderson rushing for 102 yards and 1 touchdown.

Buffalo led for the last

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

JIM TURNER

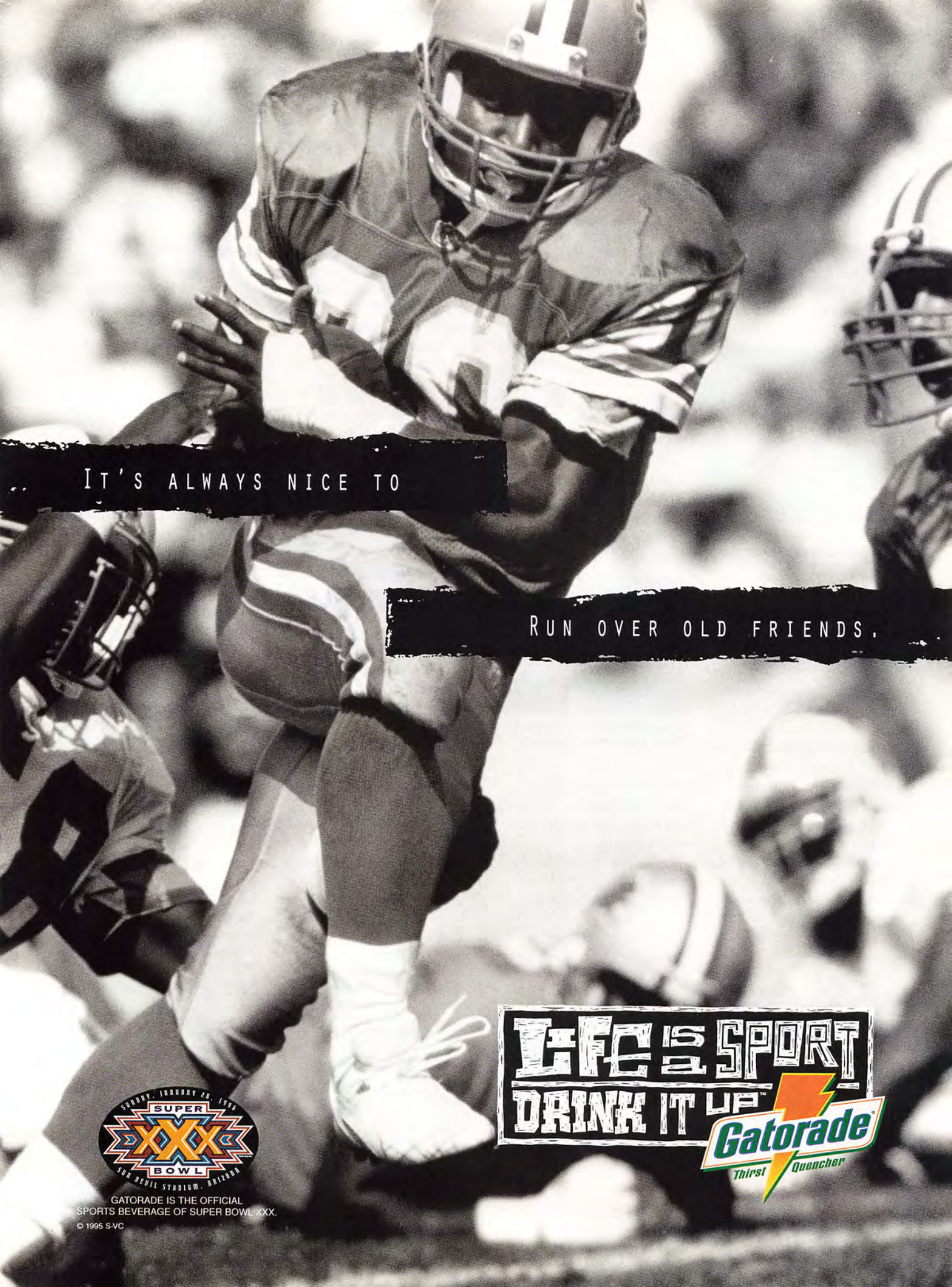
Thirty-three-year-old Ottis Anderson rushed for 102 yards.

time (19-17) on Thurman Thomas's 31-yard touchdown run on the first play of the fourth quarter. Thomas rushed for 135 yards and caught 5 passes for 55 yards.

January 27, 1991
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
Attendance: 73,813

BUFFALO	3	9	0	7	–19
N.Y. GIANTS	3	7	7	3	–20

MVP: Ottis Anderson, RB, New York
Winning Coach: Bill Parcells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SUPER BOWL XXIV

San Francisco 55, Denver 10

Joe Montana became the first player to win three Super Bowl most-valuable player awards, bombing the Broncos with a

RON VESELY

Joe Montana bombed the Broncos with 5 touchdown passes.

record 5 touchdown passes.

Montana teamed with Jerry Rice on 20-, 38-, and 28-yard scoring passes, and with Brent Jones and John Taylor for 7- and 35-yard touchdowns. The 49ers' quarterback passed for 297 yards before leaving the game early in the fourth quarter. Fullback Tom Rathman scored on 2 short runs.

The 49ers' 55 points were the most in Super Bowl history. It was their fourth Super Bowl victory and second in succession, tying them with Pittsburgh for the most victories.

January 28, 1990
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: 72,919

San Francisco	13	14	14	14	–55
Denver	3	0	7	0	–10

MVP: Joe Montana, QB San Francisco
Winning Coach: George Seifert

SUPER BOWL XXIII

San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16

Joe Montana's 10-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with 34 seconds left gave the 49ers a dramatic victory.

With just 3:20 remaining, Jim Breech's 40-yard field goal—his third of the game—had given the Bengals a 16-13 lead. But Montana drove the 49ers 92 yards for the winning touchdown, completing 8 of 9 passes on the march.

Early in the period, Montana fired a 14-yard touchdown pass to Jerry

ROB BROWN

Jerry Rice caught 11 passes for a Super Bowl-record 215 yards.

Rice for a 13-13 tie, four plays after Cincinnati's Stanford Jennings returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown.

Montana passed for a Super Bowl-record 357 yards, and MVP Rice caught 11 passes for a Super Bowl-record 215 yards.

January 22, 1989
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami
Attendance: 75,129

Cincinnati	0	3	10	3	–16
San Francisco	3	0	3	14	–20

MVP: Jerry Rice, WR, San Francisco
Winning Coach: Bill Walsh

SUPER BOWL XXII

Washington 42, Denver 10

The Redskins trailed 10-0, then erupted for an NFL-postseason-record 35 points in the second quarter—scoring 5 touchdowns in 18 plays—and went on to bury the

Doug Williams threw 4 touchdown passes in the second quarter.

Broncos in a flurry of Super Bowl records.

Doug Williams passed for a Super Bowl-record 340 yards and a record-tying 4 touchdowns (all in the second quarter). Rookie Timmy Smith rushed for a record 204 yards, including scoring runs of 58 and 4 yards. Ricky Sanders caught 9 passes for a Super Bowl-record 193 yards highlighted by 80- and 50-yard touchdown passes from Williams in the frenzied second quarter.

January 31, 1988
San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego
Attendance: 73,302

Washington	0	35	0	7	–42
Denver	10	0	0	0	–10

MVP: Doug Williams, QB, Washington
Winning Coach: Joe Gibbs

SUPER BOWL XXI

N.Y. Giants 39, Denver 20

Giants quarterback Phil Simms completed 22 of 25 passes for 268 yards and 3 touchdowns as the Giants exploded in the second half to win their first Super Bowl.

Simms set Super Bowl records for most consecutive completions (10) and highest completion percentage (88 percent). He threw touchdown passes to Zeke Mowatt (6 yards), Mark Bavaro (13), and Phil McConkey (6).

John Elway passed for 187 yards in the first half to give the Broncos a 10-9 lead at intermission. But the Giants scored the first 24 points of the second half for a 33-10 lead and never looked back.

CORKY TREWIN

ROB BROWN

Phil Simms was nearly perfect, completing 22 of his 25 passes.

January 25, 1987
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Attendance: 101,063

Denver	10	0	0	10	–20
N.Y. Giants	7	2	17	13	–39

MVP: Phil Simms, QB, New York
Winning Coach: Bill Parcells

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SUPER BOWL XX

Chicago 46, New England 10

The Bears, who had won both of their playoff games by shutouts, continued to play brilliant defense, winning their first Super Bowl by a record 36 points.

HERB WEITMAN

Defensive end Richard Dent (95) led the Bears' ferocious defense.

Only one of New England's first 16 plays gained yardage. The Patriots didn't pick up a first down until late in the second quarter. Chicago defenders gave up only 123 total yards (minus-19 at halftime), and recorded 7 sacks. Defensive end Richard Dent had 1½ sacks, 3 other tackles, 2 forced fumbles, and a pass deflection.

JOHN MCDONOUGH

On offense, the Bears' Jim McMahon passed for 256 yards and ran for a pair of touchdowns, while Kevin Butler kicked 3 field goals.

January 26, 1986
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: 73,818

CHICAGO	13	10	21	2	–46
NEW ENGLAND	3	0	0	7	–10

MVP: Richard Dent, DE, Chicago
Winning Coach: Mike Ditka

SUPER BOWL XIX

San Francisco 38, Miami 16

The Dolphins were 16-2 and the 49ers were 17-1, so it figured to be a close game. Instead, it was no contest.

The 49ers' Joe Montana passed for a Super Bowl-record 331 yards, plus 3 touchdowns, and ran for 59 yards and 1 score. Running back Roger Craig scored 3 touchdowns, including 8- and 16-yard passes from Montana. San Francisco controlled the ball for 37:11, rolling up a Super Bowl-record 537 yards.

Miami drove to a touchdown and a field goal the first two times it had the ball, but San Francisco countered with touchdowns on three consecutive second-quarter possessions to take a 28-16 halftime lead.

Roger Craig had 3 touchdowns.

Miami's Dan Marino passed for 318 yards and a touchdown.

January 20, 1985
Stanford Stadium, Stanford, California
Attendance: 84,059

MIAMI	10	6	0	0	–16
SAN FRANCISCO	7	21	10	0	–38

MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
Winning Coach: Bill Walsh

SUPER BOWL XVIII

L.A. Raiders 38, Washington 9

The Redskins were bidding for their second consecutive Super Bowl victory, but the Raiders bolted to a 21-3 halftime lead, which included touchdowns from their defense and special teams. Los Angeles put the game away behind the second-half running of Marcus Allen.

Marcus Allen ran for a record 191 yards.

Allen rushed for a Super Bowl-record 191 yards and scored twice in the third quarter on 5- and 74-yard runs.

Derrick Jensen gave the Raiders a 7-0 lead in the first 5 minutes of the game when he blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone. With 7 seconds to go in the half and Los Angeles ahead 14-3, reserve linebacker Jack Squirek intercepted a pass by Joe Theismann and returned it 5 yards for another touchdown.

January 22, 1984
Tampa Stadium, Tampa, Florida
Attendance: 72,920

WASHINGTON	0	3	6	0	– 9
L.A. RAIDERS	7	14	14	3	–38

MVP: Marcus Allen, RB, Los Angeles
Winning Coach: Tom Flores

SUPER BOWL XVII

Washington 27, Miami 17

The Redskins trailed 17-13 with 10 minutes remaining in the game when running back John Riggins, trying to make a first down on a fourth-and-1 carry, broke a tackle and raced 43 yards for the decisive touchdown. With 1:55 left, Joe Theismann passed 6 yards to Charlie Brown for the score that clinched the Redskins' first Super Bowl victory. Riggins ran for a Super Bowl-record 166 yards, his fourth consecutive 100-yard rushing game of the postseason.

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Two big plays—David Woodley's 76-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Cefalo and Fulton Walker's 98-yard kickoff return for a score—had helped stake Miami to a 17-13 lead entering the fourth quarter.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Washington took the lead for good on John Riggins's 43-yard run.

January 30, 1983
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Attendance: 103,667

MIAMI	7	10	0	0	– 17
WASHINGTON	0	10	3	14	– 27

MVP: John Riggins, RB, Washington
Winning Coach: Joe Gibbs

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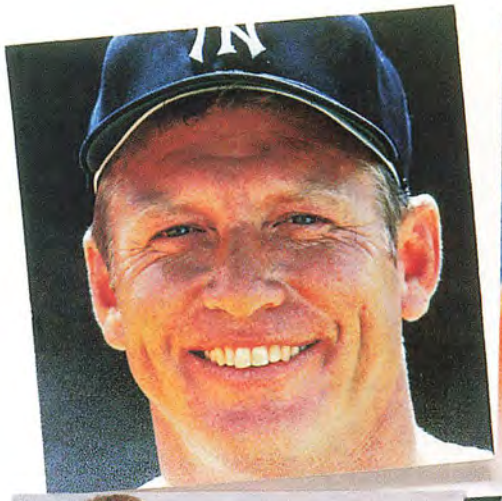

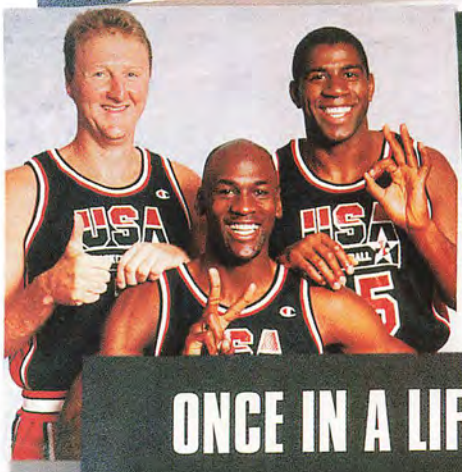

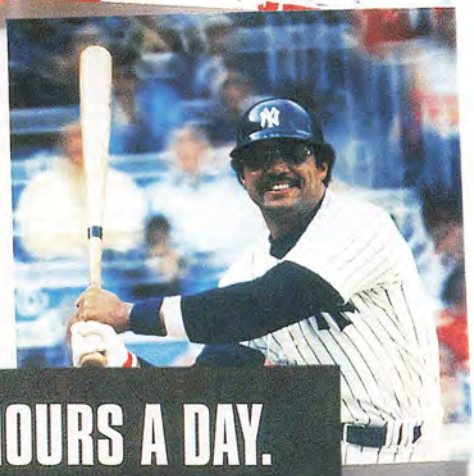

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SUPER BOWL XVI

San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21

Ray Wersching's Super Bowl-record-tying 4 field goals, Joe Montana's controlled passing, and a dramatic goal-line stand lifted the 49ers to their first of four Super Bowl victories in the 1980s.

Montana's 1-yard touchdown run and 11-yard scoring pass to Earl Cooper and 2 field goals by Wersching gave San Francisco a 20-0 halftime lead.

TONY TOMSIC

A third-quarter goal-line stand helped the 49ers beat Cincinnati.

Cincinnati rallied in the second half on Ken Anderson's 5-yard touchdown run and 2 short touchdown passes to Dan Ross, but fell short. Late in the third quarter, with the Bengals trailing 20-7, the 49ers staged a dramatic goal-line stand when the Cincinnati had a first-and-goal on the 3.

MANNY RUBIO

January 24, 1982
Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Michigan
Attendance: 81,270

San Francisco	7	13	0	6	–26
Cincinnati	0	0	7	14	–21

MVP: Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
Winning Coach: Bill Walsh

SUPER BOWL XV

Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10

Jim Plunkett fired 3 touchdown passes, including 2 to Cliff Branch, as the Raiders became the first wild-card team to win a Super Bowl.

Plunkett's barrage included a short pass to running back Kenny King that King turned into an 80-yard touchdown, which gave the Raiders a 14-0 first-quarter lead. Plunkett's scoring passes to Branch went 2 and 29 yards.

On defense, Oakland linebacker Rod Martin intercepted a Super Bowl-record 3 passes, setting up 10 of his team's points.

The Raiders had to win three playoff games, two on the road, to get to the Super Bowl.

Oakland linebacker Rod Martin intercepted a record 3 passes.

January 25, 1981
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: 76,135

Oakland	14	0	10	3	–27
Philadelphia	0	3	0	7	–10

MVP: Jim Plunkett, QB, Oakland
Winning Coach: Tom Flores

SUPER BOWL XIV

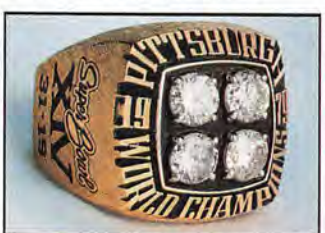
Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles 19

The Steelers won their fourth Super Bowl in six years as Terry Bradshaw passed for 309 yards and 2 touchdowns to turn back the stubborn Los Angeles Rams.

Despite 3 interceptions by Los Angeles, Bradshaw kept his poise and brought Pittsburgh from behind twice in the second half. His 47-yard touchdown pass to Lynn Swann gave his team a 17-13 lead early in the third quarter. His 73-yard scoring pass to John Stallworth early in the fourth quarter pushed the Steelers ahead for good, 24-19.

John Stallworth's 73-yard touchdown catch ruined the Rams.

Lawrence McCutcheon's 24-yard touchdown pass to Ron Smith on a halfback-option play gave the Rams their last lead at 19-17.



January 20, 1980
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Attendance: 103,985

Los Angeles	7	6	6	0	–19
Pittsburgh	3	7	7	14	–31

MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh
Winning Coach: Chuck Noll

SUPER BOWL XIII

Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31

Terry Bradshaw outdueled Roger Staubach, and the Steelers became the first team to win three Super Bowls.

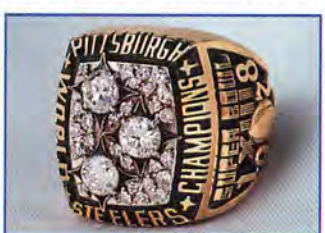
Bradshaw passed for 318 yards and a Super Bowl-record 4 touchdowns, including 2 scoring passes to John Stallworth (for 28 and 75 yards) and 1 each to Rocky Bleier (7 yards) and Lynn Swann (18 yards).

Staubach's 3 touchdown passes went to Tony Hill (39 yards), Billy Joe DuPree (7), and Butch Johnson (4). Staubach's last 2 touchdown passes (the second after an onside kick) rallied Dallas from a 35-17 fourth-quarter deficit to 35-31, but Bleier recovered the Cowboys' final onside kick with 22 seconds left.

RICHARD B. GENTILE

JOHN BIEVER

Terry Bradshaw's 4 touchdown passes held off the Cowboys.



January 21, 1979
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: 79,484

Pittsburgh	7	14	0	14	–35
Dallas	7	7	3	14	–31

MVP: Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh
Winning Coach: Chuck Noll

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SUPER BOWL XII

Dallas 27, Denver 10

With defensive tackle Randy White and defensive end Harvey Martin leading the charge, the Cowboys forced 8 turnovers and held Denver quarterbacks Craig Morton and Norris Weese to 8 completions in 25 attempts for 61 yards. Reserve defensive back Randy Hughes had an interception and 2 fumble recoveries.

On offense, the Cowboys' Roger Staubach threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Butch Johnson, who made a spectacular diving catch, while running back Robert Newhouse passed 29 yards to Golden Richards for another score. Efren Herrera kicked 2 field goals.

THE ALLENS

Butch Johnson's diving touchdown catch helped beat Denver.

January 15, 1978
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: 75,583

DALLAS	10	3	7	7	–27
DENVER	0	0	10	0	–10

MVP: Randy White, DT, Dallas and Harvey Martin, DE, Dallas
Winning Coach: Tom Landry

SUPER BOWL XI

Oakland 32, Minnesota 14

The Raiders won their first NFL title and served up a large helping of frustration for the Vikings, who had gone to four Super Bowls in eight seasons—and lost all of them.

Fred Biletnikoff set up 3 touchdowns.

On the way to victory, Oakland rushed for a Super Bowl-record 266 yards, including 137 by Clarence Davis and 73 by Mark van Eeghen. Pete Banaszak came off the bench to score on 1- and 2-yard runs.

Oakland's Ken Stabler passed for 180 yards, including a 1-yard scoring pass to Dave Casper, while Fred Biletnikoff caught 4 passes for 79 yards. Three of his receptions set up touchdowns inside the 3-yard line. Cornerback Willie Brown scored Oakland's final touchdown on a Super Bowl-record 75-yard interception return.

January 9, 1977
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Attendance: 103,438

OAKLAND	0	16	3	13	–32
MINNESOTA	0	0	7	7	–14

MVP: Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Oakland
Winning Coach: John Madden

SUPER BOWL X

Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17

Terry Bradshaw's 64-yard touchdown pass to Lynn Swann with 3:02 left proved decisive as the Steelers won their second consecutive Super Bowl.

The bomb to Swann—who set a Super Bowl-record with 161 yards on 4 catches—gave Pittsburgh a 21-10 lead. Roger Staubach rallied the Cowboys, firing a 34-yard touchdown pass to Percy Howard with 1:48 left to make it 21-17, but his last-second desperation pass was intercepted in the end zone by safety Glen Edwards.

Lynn Swann's acrobatic catches led the Steelers to victory.

Dallas led 10-7 entering the fourth quarter, but Pittsburgh's Reggie Harrison blocked a punt out of the end zone for a momentum-turning safety early in the final period.

January 18, 1976
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: 80,187

DALLAS	7	3	0	7	–17
PITTSBURGH	7	0	0	14	–21

MVP: Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh
Winning Coach: Chuck Noll

SUPER BOWL IX

Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6

Franco Harris rushed for a Super Bowl-record 158 yards, including a 9-yard scoring run, helping the Steelers to the first of four Super Bowl triumphs in the 1970s. It was the Vikings' third Super Bowl loss.

Trailing 9-0 in the fourth quarter, Minnesota sliced the lead to 9-6 when linebacker Matt Blair blocked a punt, and safety Terry Brown recovered in the end zone for a touchdown.

But Pittsburgh countered with a 66-yard drive that ended with Terry Bradshaw's 4-yard touchdown pass to tight end Larry Brown with 3:31 left for the final margin.

FRED ROE

PETER READ MILLER

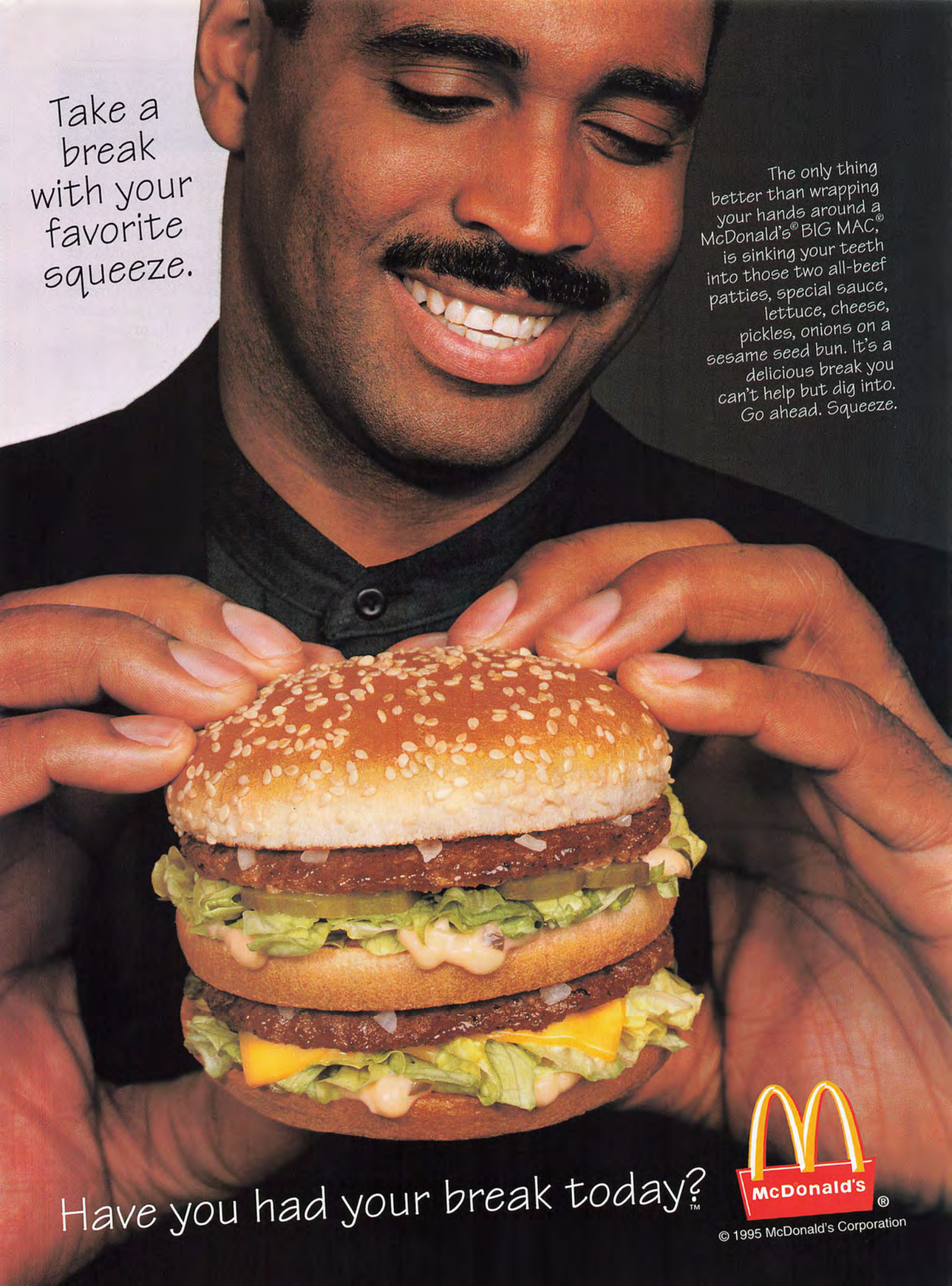
Franco Harris rushed for a Super Bowl-record 158 yards.

The Steelers' defense held the Vikings to a Super Bowl-low 119 total yards, including only 17 rushing.

January 12, 1975
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Attendance: 80,997

PITTSBURGH	0	2	7	7	–16
MINNESOTA	0	0	0	6	– 6

MVP: Franco Harris, RB, Pittsburgh
Winning Coach: Chuck Noll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SUPER BOWL VIII

Miami 24, Minnesota 7

SUPER BOWL VIII

The Dolphins became the first team to appear in three consecutive Super Bowls and the second to win two in a row by dominating the Vikings.

Miami drove 62 and 56 yards for touchdowns on its first two possessions, with Larry Csonka scoring from the 5 and Jim Kiick from the 1. For the game, Csonka rushed for a Super Bowl-record 145 yards and scored twice.

DICK RAPHAEL

Miami's Larry Csonka rushed for a record 145 yards.

The Dolphins controlled the ball on the ground most of the day as quarterback Bob Griese attempted only 7 passes, completing 6 for 73 yards.

Quarterback Fran Tarkenton's 4-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter gave Minnesota its only touchdown.

LONG PHOTOGRAPHY

January 13, 1974
Rice Stadium, Houston
Attendance: 71,882

MINNESOTA	0	0	0	7	– 7
MIAMI	14	3	7	0	–24

MVP: Larry Csonka, RB, Miami
Winning Coach: Don Shula

SUPER BOWL VII

Miami 14, Washington 7

SUPER BOWL VII

The Dolphins took a 14-0 halftime lead on Bob Griese's 28-yard pass to Howard Twilley and Jim Kiick's 1-yard run, and went on to a victory that made them the only unbeaten, untied team in NFL history (17-0).

Linebacker Nick Buoniconti's 32-yard interception return set up Kiick's touchdown, and safety Jake Scott had 2 more interceptions, including a 55-yard return that killed a Redskins' drive in the fourth quarter.

Washington scored its only touchdown with 2:07 left in the game when cornerback Mike Bass returned Miami kicker Garo Yepremian's fumble (after a blocked field goal) 49 yards.

Miami's Larry Csonka rushed for 112 yards.

Jake Scott had 2 interceptions for the Dolphins, including this one in the end zone.

January 14, 1973
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles
Attendance: 90,182

MIAMI	7	7	0	0	–14
WASHINGTON	0	0	0	7	– 7

MVP: Jake Scott, S, Miami
Winning Coach: Don Shula

SUPER BOWL VI

Dallas 24, Miami 3

SUPER BOWL VI

In winning their first Super Bowl, the Cowboys rushed for a record 252 yards and did not permit a touchdown for the only time in Super Bowl history. Miami was limited to a record-low 185 total yards.

Duane Thomas rushed for 95 yards, including a 3-yard scoring run for a 17-3 third-quarter lead, and Walt Garrison rushed for 74 yards. Roger Staubach threw 7-yard touchdown passes to Lance Alworth and Mike Ditka.

Roger Staubach led the Cowboys to their first Super Bowl victory.

Dallas linebacker Chuck Howley recovered a fumble in the first quarter to set up a field goal, then returned an interception 41 yards in the fourth quarter to set up his team's final touchdown.

January 16, 1972
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Attendance: 80,591

DALLAS	3	7	7	7	–24
MIAMI	0	3	0	0	– 3

MVP: Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas
Winning Coach: Tom Landry

SUPER BOWL V

Baltimore 16, Dallas 13

SUPER BOWL V

Rookie kicker Jim O'Brien's 32-yard field goal with five seconds left secured the victory for the Colts, who rallied from a 13-6 fourth-quarter deficit.

In a game with 11 turnovers, the Colts forced 2 in the fourth quarter (both interceptions off Craig Morton) to set up the tying touchdown and the winning kick. Safety Rick Volk's 30-yard return to the Dallas 3 led to Tom Nowatzke's 2-yard run for the tying score. And linebacker Mike Curtis's 13-yard runback to the Dallas 28 with 59 seconds left set up O'Brien's field goal.

VERNON BIEVER

DICK RAPHAEL

Earl Morrall held the ball for Jim O'Brien's winning field goal.

Dallas built its 13-6 lead on 2 field goals by Mike Clark and Morton's 7-yard touchdown pass to Duane Thomas.

January 17, 1971
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: 79,204

BALTIMORE	0	6	0	10	–16
DALLAS	3	10	0	0	–13

MVP: Chuck Howley, LB, Dallas
Winning Coach: Don McCafferty

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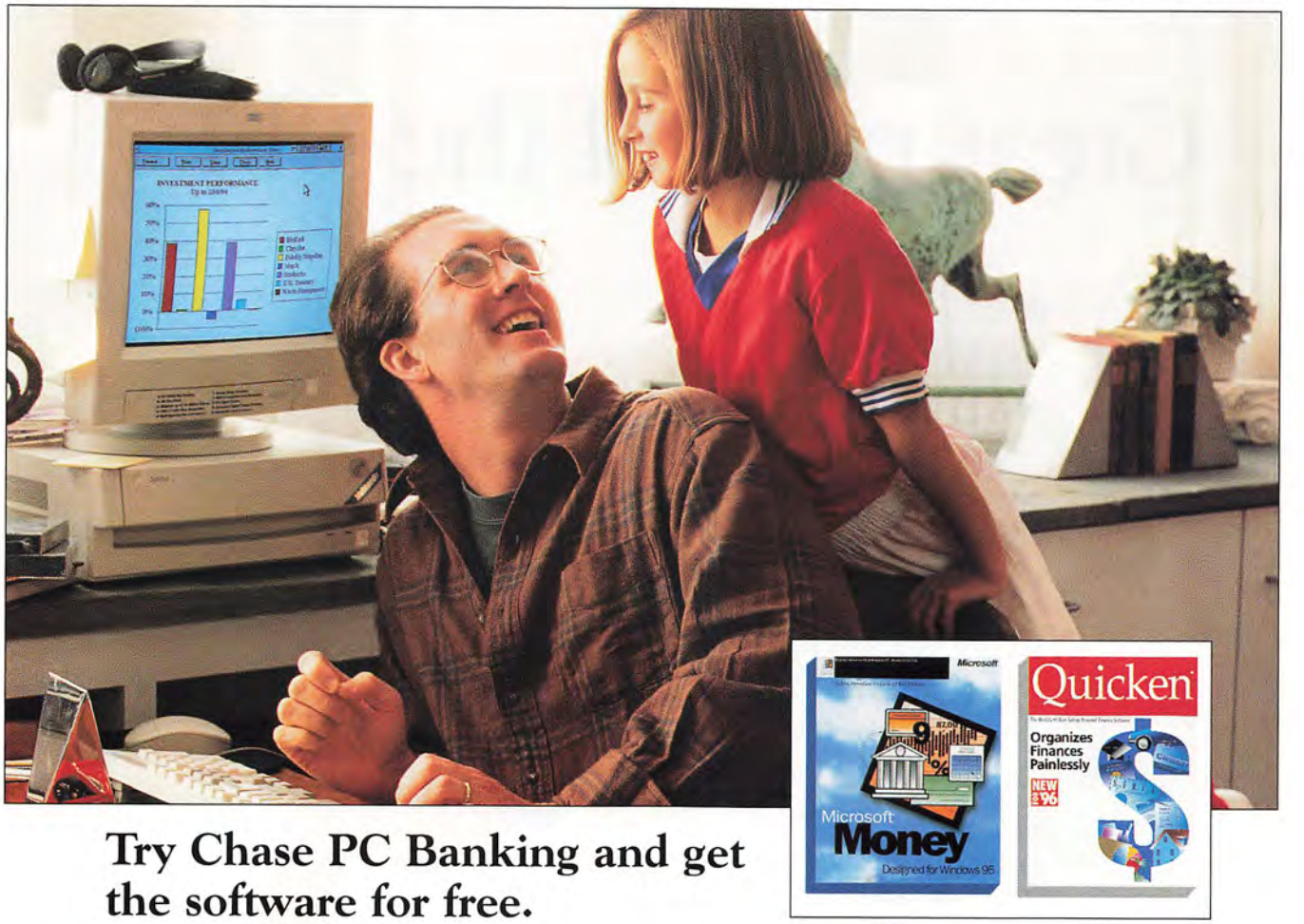

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SUPER BOWL IV

KANSAS CITY 23, MINNESOTA 7

SUPER BOWL IV

In the last AFL-NFL Super Bowl before the merger, the Chiefs took a 16-0 halftime lead, forced 5 turnovers, and gave the AFL its second successive victory.

TONY TOMSIC

Len Dawson directed the Chiefs to victory.

Jan Stenerud kicked 3 field goals, including 1 from a Super Bowl-record 48 yards, and Mike Garrett ran 5 yards for a touchdown as Kansas City dominated the first half.

The Vikings scored late in the third quarter on Dave Osborn's 4-yard run, but the Chiefs retaliated on the next series with an 82-yard touchdown drive. It ended with a flourish when Len Dawson threw a short pass to Otis Taylor, who broke a tackle and went 46 yards to score. Dawson completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards.

January 11, 1970
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Attendance: 80,562

MINNESOTA	0	0	7	0	– 7
KANSAS CITY	3	13	7	0	–23

MVP: Len Dawson, QB, Kansas City
Winning Coach: Hank Stram

SUPER BOWL III

N.Y. JETS 16, BALTIMORE 7

SUPER BOWL III

Jets quarterback Joe Namath "guaranteed" a victory for his team at a dinner three days before the game, then delivered one of the greatest upsets in sports history.

Namath completed 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards as the AFL's Jets rolled to a stunning 16-0 lead before the Colts, who had a 13-1 record during the NFL regular season, scored. Matt Snell rushed for 121 yards and a touchdown, while Jim Turner kicked 3 field goals. New York's defense forced 5 turnovers, including 3 interceptions off Earl Morrall, in the first defeat of an NFL team in a Super Bowl.

Johnny Unitas, who was nursing a sore elbow, came off the bench to direct Baltimore's only touchdown drive.

VERNON BIEVER

Matt Snell rushed for 121 yards and a touchdown in the Jets' shocking victory over Baltimore.

January 12, 1969
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: 75,377

N.Y. JETS	0	7	6	3	–16
BALTIMORE	0	0	0	7	– 7

MVP: Joe Namath, QB, New York
Winning Coach: Weeb Ewbank

SUPER BOWL II

GREEN BAY 33, OAKLAND 14

SUPER BOWL II

The Packers won their second consecutive Super Bowl to conclude Vince Lombardi's epic career as Green Bay's coach.

Bart Starr threw a 62-yard touchdown pass to

Boyd Dowler burned Oakland with a 62-yard touchdown catch.

Boyd Dowler, and Don Chandler kicked 3 field goals to give the Packers a 16-7 halftime lead. They built it to 26-7 in the third quarter on Donny Anderson's 2-yard touchdown run and another field goal by Chandler. Cornerback Herb Adderley had a 60-yard interception return for a score in the final quarter. Starr passed for 202 yards.

Oakland quarterback Daryle Lamonica threw a pair of 23-yard touchdown passes to Bill Miller.

January 14, 1968
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: 75,546

GREEN BAY	3	13	10	7	–33
OAKLAND	0	7	0	7	–14

MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay
Winning Coach: Vince Lombardi

SUPER BOWL I

GREEN BAY 35, KANSAS CITY 10

First World Championship Game AFL vs NFL

Green Bay led 14-10 at halftime, but exploded for 3 second-half touchdowns and went on to victory in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game (as it was officially called).

The Packers opened a 21-10 lead after safety Willie Wood intercepted a Len Dawson pass on the Chiefs' first series of the third quarter and returned it 50 yards to the Kansas City 5. Elijah Pitts scored on the next play.

TONY TOMSIC

DARRYL NORENBERG

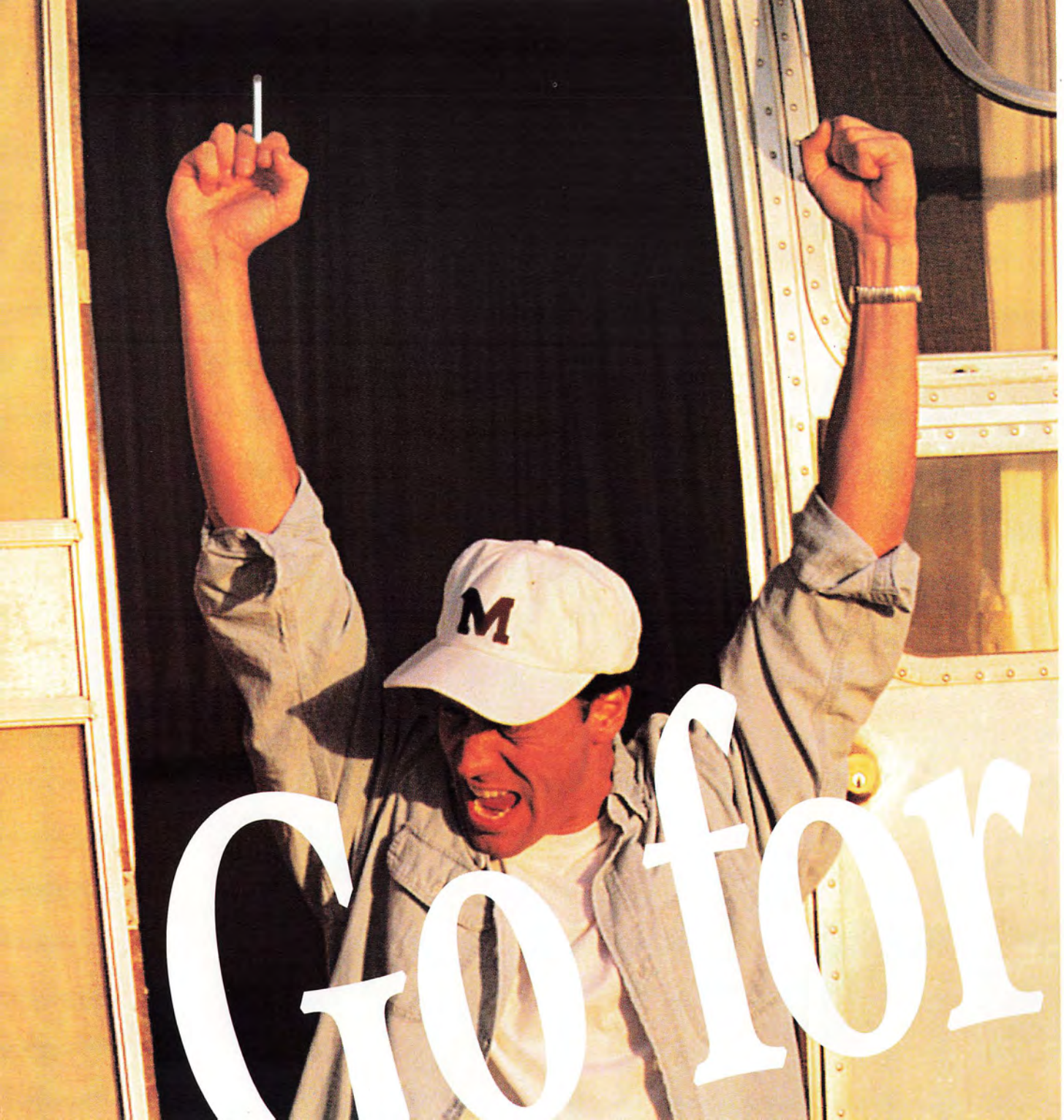
Bart Starr threw 2 touchdown passes to Max McGee.

Green Bay quarterback Bart Starr passed for 250 yards, including 37- and 13-yard touchdown strikes to Max McGee, who entered the game after Boyd Dowler suffered a first-quarter injury.

January 15, 1967
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles
Attendance: 61,946

KANSAS CITY	0	10	0	0	–10
GREEN BAY	7	7	14	7	–35

MVP: Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay
Winning Coach: Vince Lombardi



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SCORING

Most Points, Career
42 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-td)
24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-td)

Most Points, Game
18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (3-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-td); vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (3-td)
15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games (7-p)
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (2-r, 2-p)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games (4-r)

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p); vs. San Diego XXIX (3-p)
Ricky Watters, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX (1-r, 2-p)
2 By many players

Most Field Goals, Career
5 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (5 att)
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
Uwe von Schamann, Miami, 2 games (4 att)

Most Field Goals, Game
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI
3 By seven players

Longest Field Goal
54 Steve Christie, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV
Rich Karlis, Denver vs. N.Y. Giants, XXI

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Career
101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
64 John Riggins, Washington, 2 games

Most Attempts, Game
38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most Yards Gained, Career
354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII

Longest Run From Scrimmage
74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 4 games
3 Emmitt Smith, Dallas, 2 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
2 By 10 players

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Career
145 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
122 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games

Most Passes Attempted, Game
58 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII

Most Passes Completed, Career
83 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
81 Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Career
1,142 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Pass Completion
80 Jim Plunkett (to King), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Doug Williams (to Sanders), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 David Woodley (to Cefalo), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdown Passes, Career
11 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Touchdown Passes, Game
6 Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Most Attempts, Without Interception, Game
36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
Steve Young, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX
35 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Career
7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 4 games
6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games
John Elway, Denver, 3 games

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Game
4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
3 By eight players

RECEPTIONS

Most Receptions, Career
28 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
27 Andre Reed, Buffalo, 4 games

Most Receptions, Game
11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX

Most Yards Gained, Career
512 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception
80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 Jimmy Cefalo (from Woodley), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career
7 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 3 games
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games

Most Touchdowns, Game
3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. San Diego, XXIX; vs. Denver, XXIV
2 By nine players

INTERCEPTIONS BY

Most Interceptions By, Career
3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Rod Martin, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 2 games
2 By nine players

Most Interceptions By, Game
3 Rod Martin, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2 By six players

Most Yards Gained, Career
75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games
63 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
63 Jake Scott, Miami vs. Washington, VII

Longest Return
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)
60 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Game
1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Jack Squirek, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Reggie Phillips, Chicago vs. New England, XX

PUNTING

Most Punts, Career
17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games
Mike Horan, Denver, 3 games

Most Punts, Game
9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
7 By eight players

Longest Punt
63 Lee Johnson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII
62 Rich Camarillo, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Highest Average, Punting, Career (10 punts)
46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games (11-511)
41.9 Ray Guy, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (14-587)

Highest Average, Punting, Game (4 punts)
48.8 Bryan Wagner, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (4-195)
48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV (4-194)

PUNT RETURNS

Most Punt Returns, Career
6 Willie Wood, Green Bay, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
Theo Bell, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game
John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games
5 Dana McLemore, San Francisco, 1 game

Most Punt Returns, Game
6 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Dana McLemore, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Fair Catches, Game
3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Al Edwards, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, XXV
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants vs. Buffalo, XXV

Most Yards Gained, Career
94 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games
52 Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
56 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
52 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Longest Return
45 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
34 Darrell Green, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, XVIII

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
15.7 John Taylor, San Francisco, 3 games (6-94)
10.8 Neal Colzie, Oakland, 1 game (4-43)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
18.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII (3-56)
12.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-38)

KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns, Career
10 Ken Bell, Denver, 3 games
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Kickoff Returns, Game
8 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
7 Stephen Starring, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Career
283 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game
244 Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX
190 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII

Longest Return
98 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)
Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX (TD)
93 Stanford Jennings, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII (TD)

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)
35.4 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games (8-283)
30.5 Andre Coleman, San Diego, 1 game (8-244)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)
47.5 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (4-190)
32.4 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (5-162)

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TEAM RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Game
55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
52 Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII

Fewest Points, Game
3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Points, Both Teams, Game
75 San Francisco (49) vs. San Diego (26), XXIX
69 Dallas (52) vs. Buffalo (17), XXVII

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game
21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pittsburgh (16), IX

Largest Margin of Victory, Game
45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)

Most Points, Each Half
1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half
1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game
31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Fewest First Downs, Game
9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game
50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
49 Buffalo (25) vs. Washington (24), XXVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game
24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game
602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game
57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest Attempts, Game
9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game
81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game
49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
51 San Diego (19) vs. San Francisco (32), XXIX

Most Yards Gained, Game
280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
168 Buffalo (43) vs. Washington (125), XXVI
171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game
59 Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
55 San Diego vs. San Francisco, XXIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game
7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
93 San Diego (55) vs. San Francisco (38), XXIX
92 Buffalo (59) vs. Washington (33), XXVI

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game
35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII

Most Passes Completed, Game
31 Buffalo vs. Dallas, XXVIII
29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game
4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
52 San Diego (27) vs. San Francisco (25), XXIX

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game
19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Most Yards Gained, Game
341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game
35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
603 San Francisco (316) vs. San Diego (287), XXIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game
156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX

Most Times Sacked, Game
7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

CAREER PASSING LEADERS

(Minimum 40 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Troy Aikman, Dallas	2	57	41	72.0	480	8.42	4	7.0	45t	1	1.8	113.2
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	4	145	81	56.0	856	5.90	2	1.4	40	7	4.8	57.7
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
Stan Humphries, San Diego	1	49	24	48.9	275	5.61	1	2.0	33	2	4.1	56.1
John Elway, Denver	3	101	46	45.5	669	6.62	2	1.9	56t	6	5.9	49.5
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7

DARRYL NORENBERG

Franco: *The super runner of the Steelers still holds the career rushing record.*

CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	2	240	38	6.3	31t	4
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	204	52	3.9	31t	4
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	145	30	4.8	14	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	3	28	512	18.2	44t	7
Andre Reed, Buffalo	4	27	323	12.0	40	0
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	4	20	144	7.2	24	0
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Don Beebe, Buffalo	3	12	171	14.2	43	2
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
Jay Novacek, Dallas	2	12	98	8.2	25	2
Kenneth Davis, Buffalo	4	12	77	6.4	19	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Michael Irvin, Dallas	2	11	180	16.4	25	2
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2

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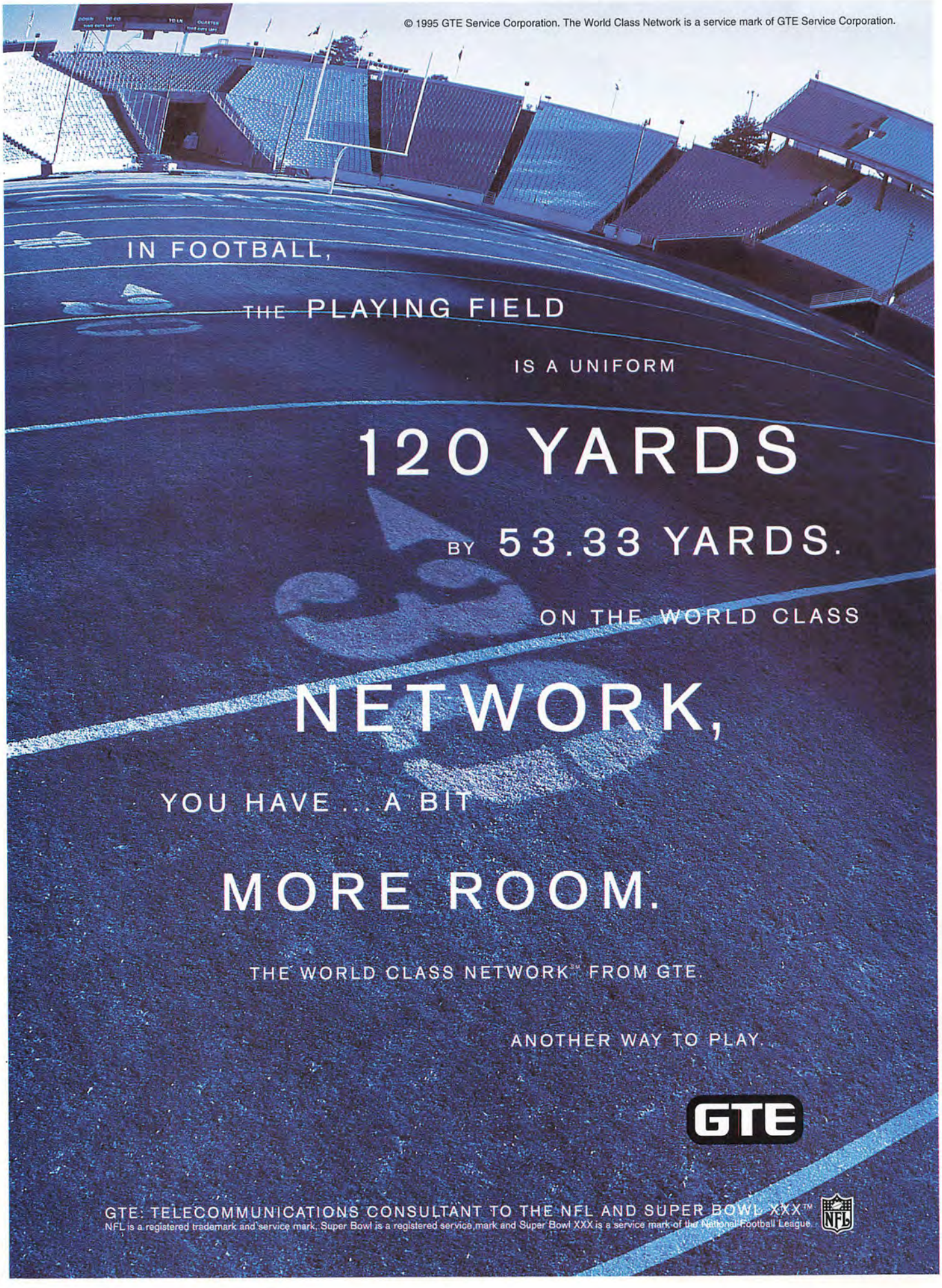
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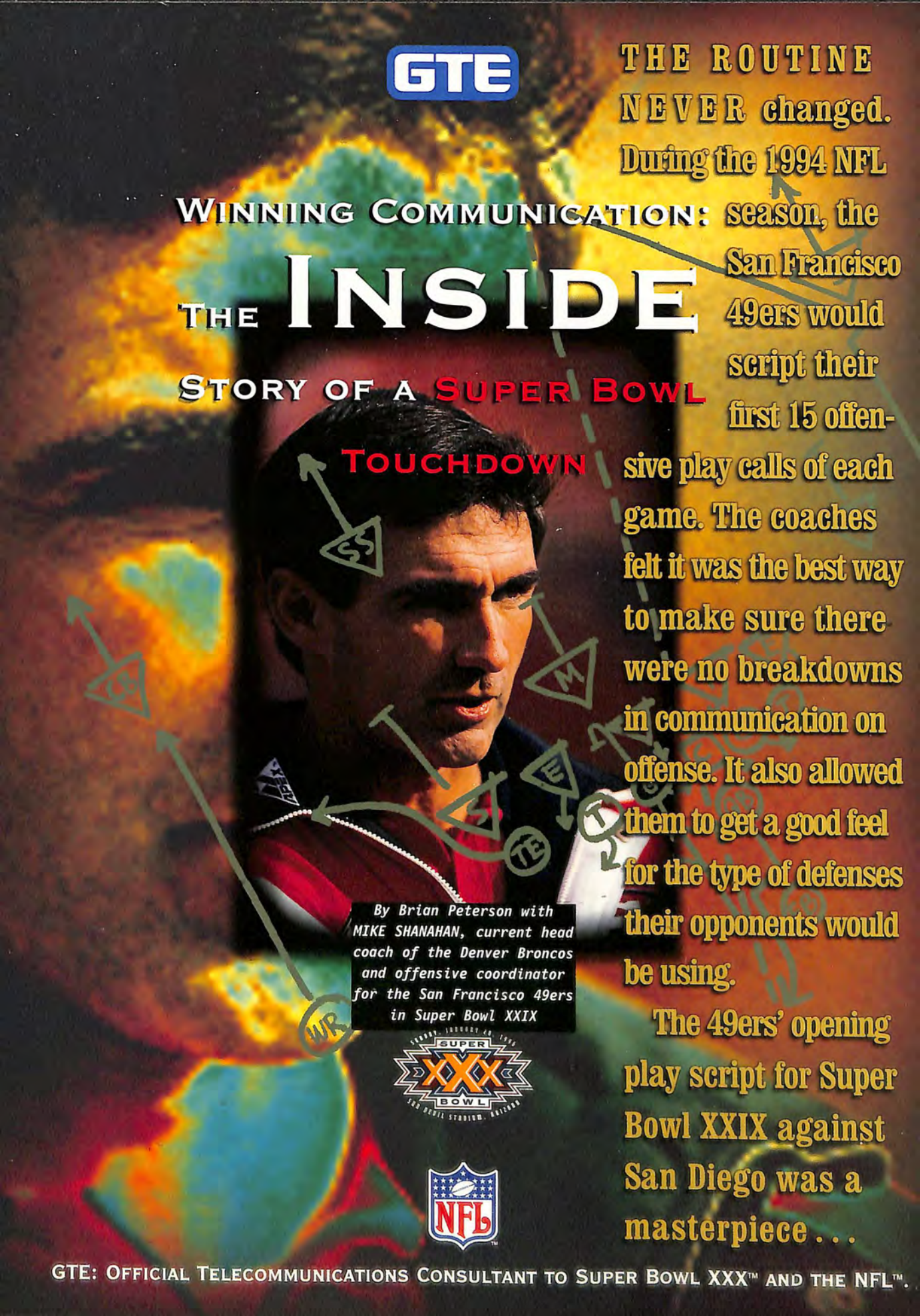
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WINNING COMMUNICATION:
THE INSIDE
STORY OF A SUPER BOWL
TOUCHDOWN
By Brian Peterson with MIKE SHANAHAN, current head coach of the Denver Broncos and offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIX
SUPER XXX BOWL
NFL
THE ROUTINE NEVER changed. During the 1994 NFL season, the San Francisco 49ers would script their first 15 offensive play calls of each game. The coaches felt it was the best way to make sure there were no breakdowns in communication on offense. It also allowed them to get a good feel for the type of defenses their opponents would be using.
The 49ers' opening play script for Super Bowl XXIX against San Diego was a masterpiece . . .
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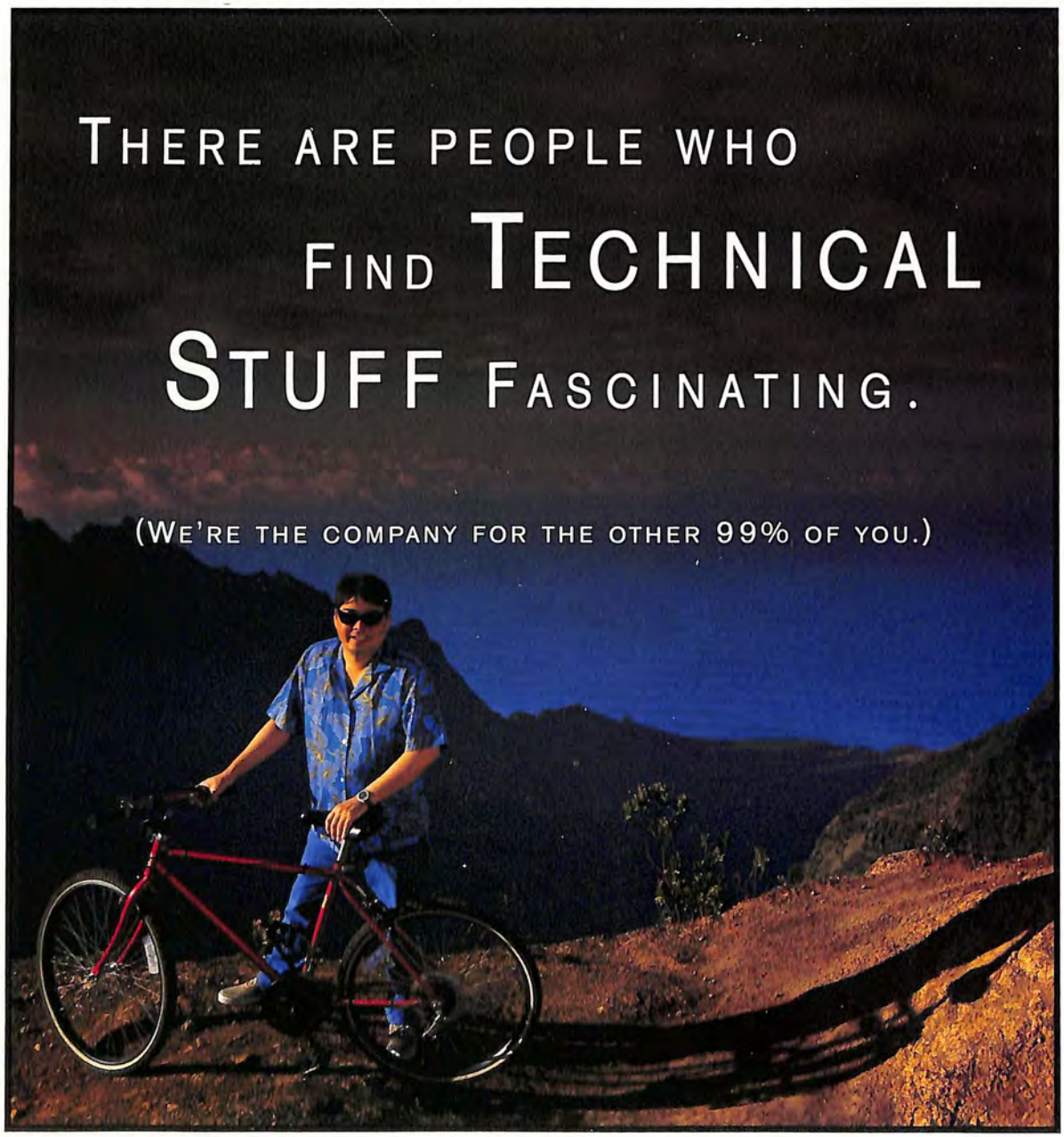
Alan Yamamoto uses his cellular phone all over the Hawaiian islands.
Which he finds easier than trying to find a phone booth on top of a mountain.



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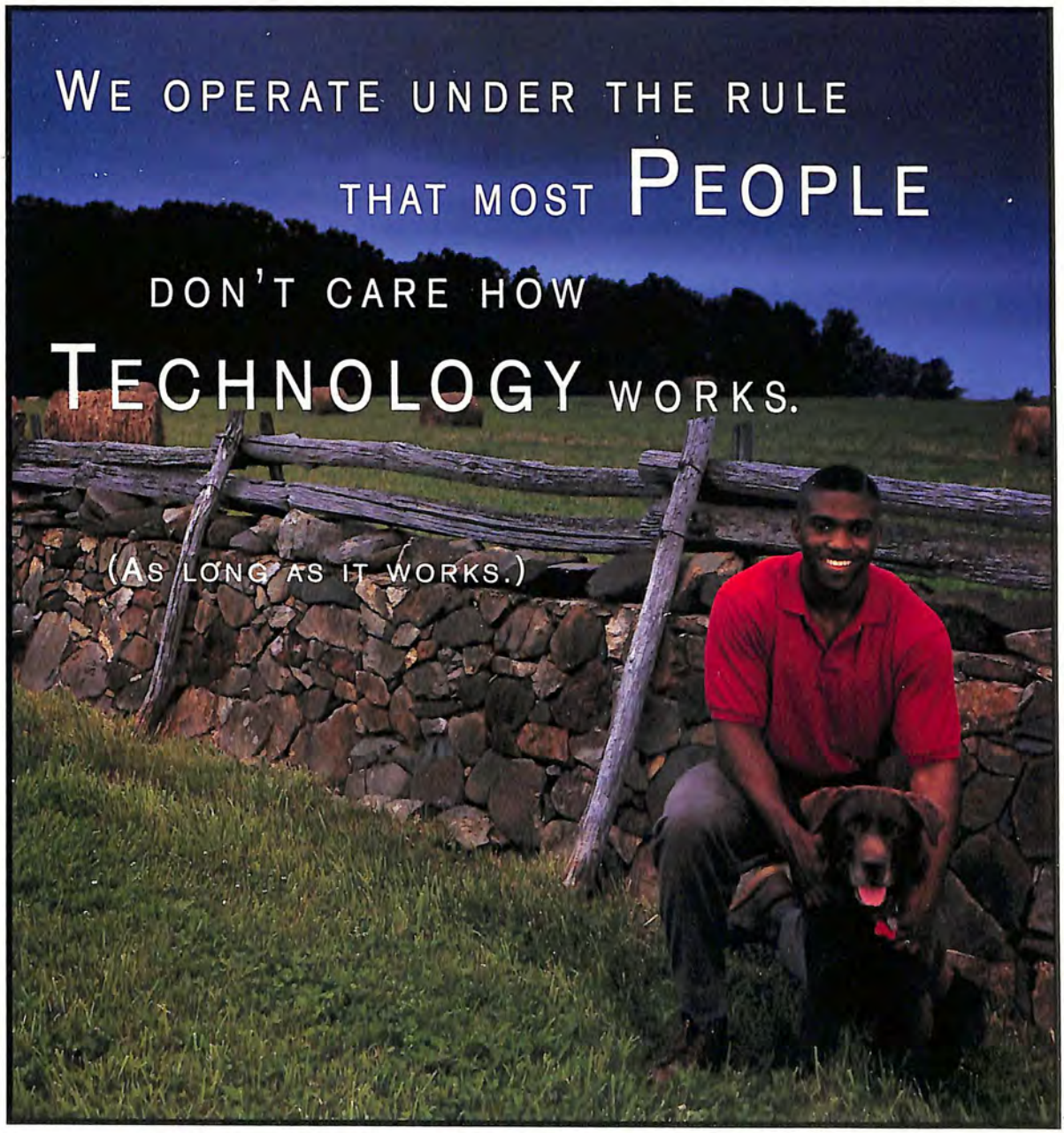
Karl L. Brunson presents ideas in California from a phone modem in Manassas, Virginia. Which he finds much easier than hopping on planes all of the time.



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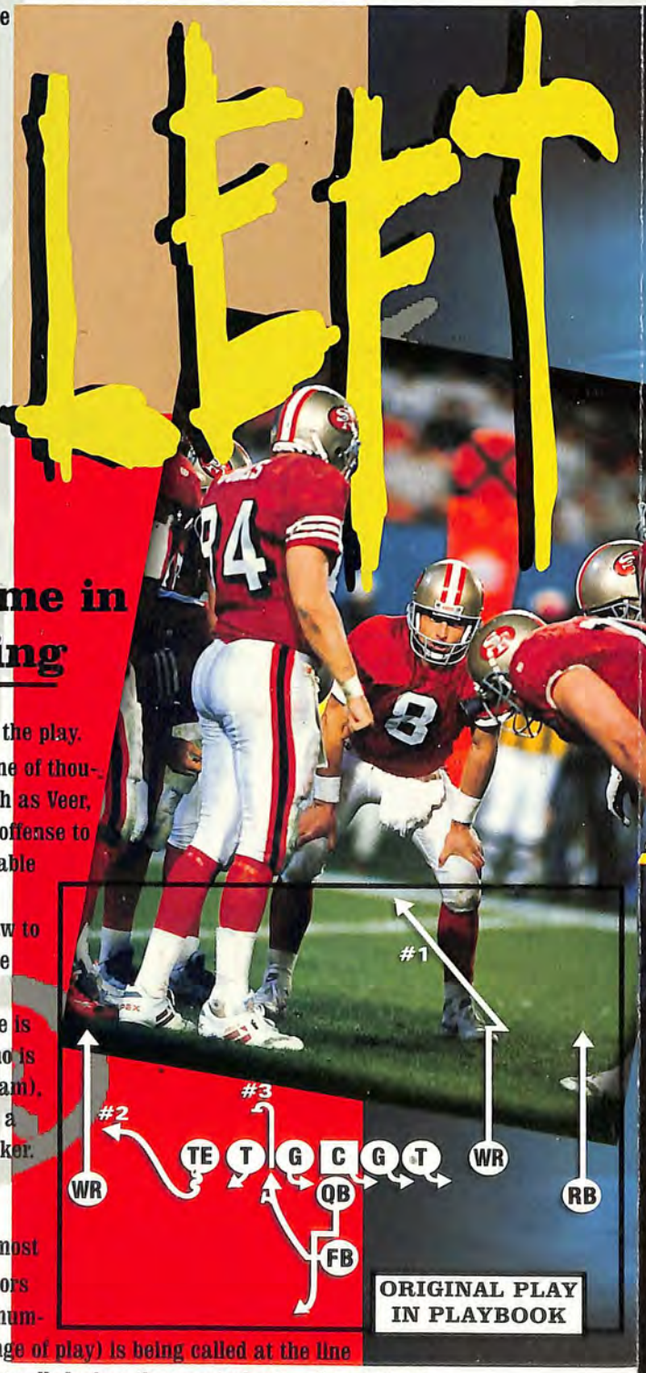
... It took them only seven offensive plays to gain 138 yards and score 2 touchdowns. The best example of San Francisco's keen ability to communicate among the coaches in the press box, the coaches on the sideline, the quarterback, and the team, was on its third offensive play. On first-and-10 from San Diego's 44-yard line, the 49ers called for "Jet Left J.R."

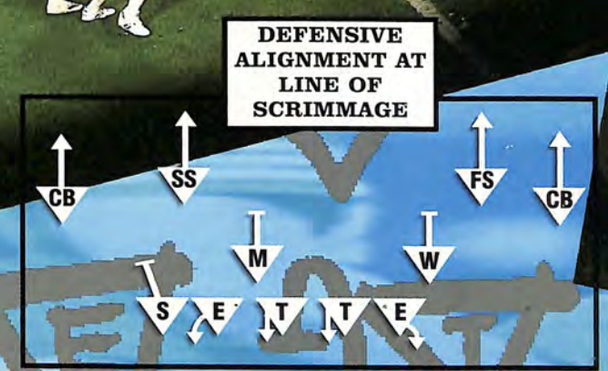
But what is "Jet Left J.R.?" How does it work? And why was it successful? To answer those questions, we take you inside San Francisco's huddle and give you a behind-the-scenes look at how plays are communicated and put into action during NFL games.

"JET LEFT J.R."

Communication Is the Name of the Game in Super Bowl Play Calling



ORIGINAL PLAY IN PLAYBOOK



DEFENSIVE ALIGNMENT AT LINE OF SCRIMMAGE

THE OFFENSE

"JET LEFT J.R." Jet is the name of the play. There is no hidden meaning to the word. It is just one of thousands of names given to various offensive plays such as Veer, Fly, Go, Post, Belly, etc. Left refers to the side of the offense to which the play is directed. J.R. stands for incomparable 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice.

On the play, quarterback Steve Young fakes a draw to fullback William Floyd, then drops back to pass. Rice runs 10 yards straight downfield, then breaks in—toward the post. Young's first target is Rice, but if he is covered, Young will look to tight end Brent Jones, who is running a delay route in the left flat (see play diagram), and then to Floyd, who (after faking the draw) runs a check-through pattern in front of the middle linebacker.

"BLUE 88, BLUE 88, SET, HUT" This is Young's cadence for the play. In most situations, quarterbacks use any combination of colors and numbers in calling signals. The colors and the numbers don't mean anything unless an audible (a change of play) is being called at the line of scrimmage. The offense knows an audible is being called when the quarterback yells a hot color (one color designated by the team to signal a play change) and then a number, which gives the offensive linemen their blocking assignments. The ball is snapped on "Hut."

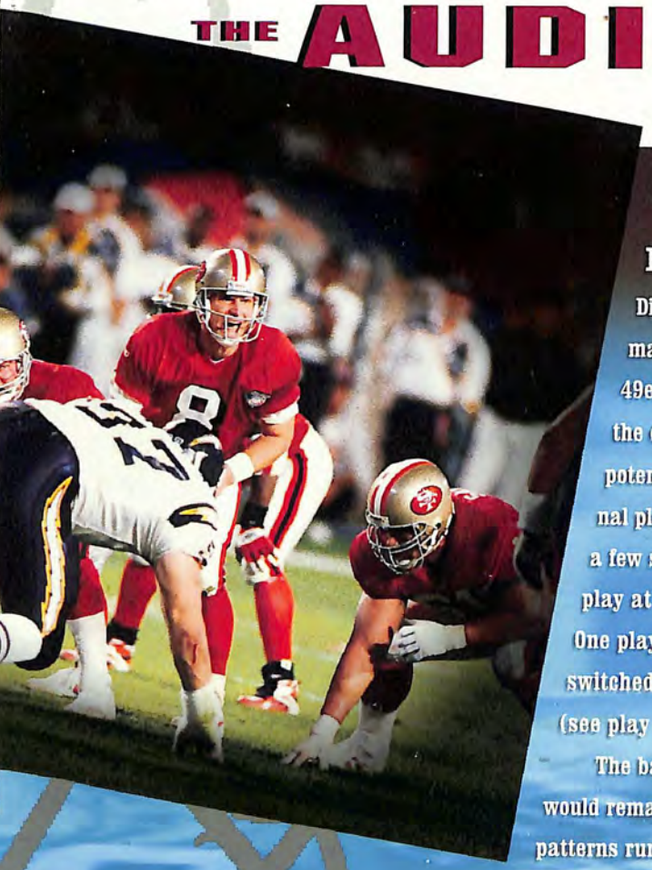
"EAGLE, QUARTERS ZONE" Led by fiery linebacker Junior Seau, the San Diego Chargers' defense entered Super Bowl XXIX with some impressive numbers. The Chargers finished the 1994 season ranked fourteenth in the NFL in total defense and fifth against the rush. They allowed the fourth-fewest points in the AFC during the year, and in the AFC Championship Game, they held the potent Pittsburgh Steelers' offense to only 13 points at Three Rivers Stadium.

A linebacker usually calls the plays for the defense, and Seau was San Diego's defensive captain. On this play, the Chargers lined up in an Eagle defense with the secondary looking as if it were playing quarters zone coverage.

In an Eagle defense, the tackles shift over the guards, and the Sam (strongside) and Will (weakside) linebackers move outside the defensive ends. Quarters zone coverage means that each of the defensive backs covers one-fourth of the deep field, divided into overlapping areas or "zones." It is the linebackers' responsibility to cover the zones between the line of scrimmage and the secondary.

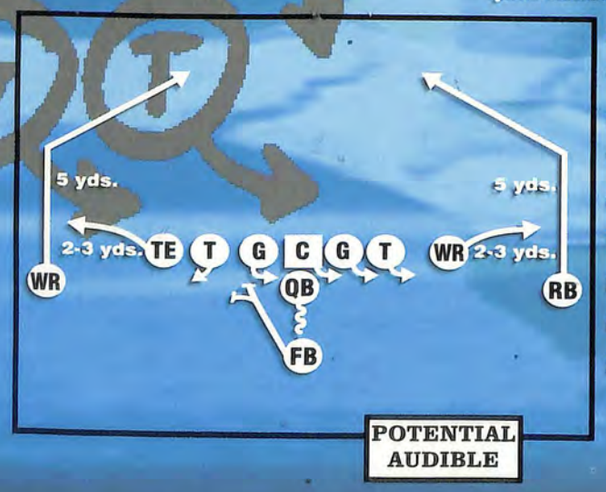
THE DEFENSE

THE AUDIBLE



"300 JET DRAGON" If San Diego's defense had called for man-for-man coverage, the 49ers' Young would have read the defense and recognized a potential problem with the original play call. He then would have a few seconds to call a different play at the line of scrimmage. One play that Young may have switched to is "300 Jet Dragon" (see play diagram).

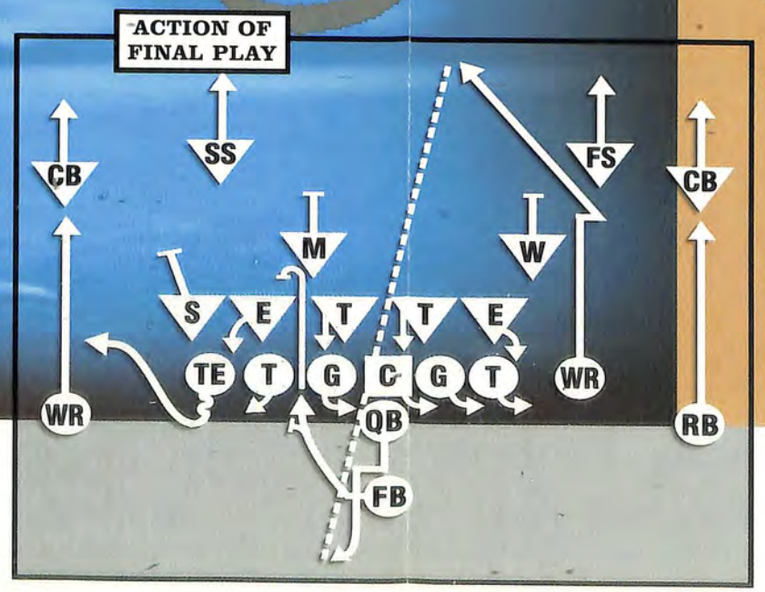
The basic offensive formation would remain the same, but the pass patterns run by the receivers would change. The outside receivers would run quick slants to the center of the field, and the inside receivers would run short flat patterns toward the sidelines. These slant patterns are designed to hit quickly. When Young sees man-for-man coverage, going to the slant would eliminate any linebackers in underneath zones and still give him a chance for a big play.



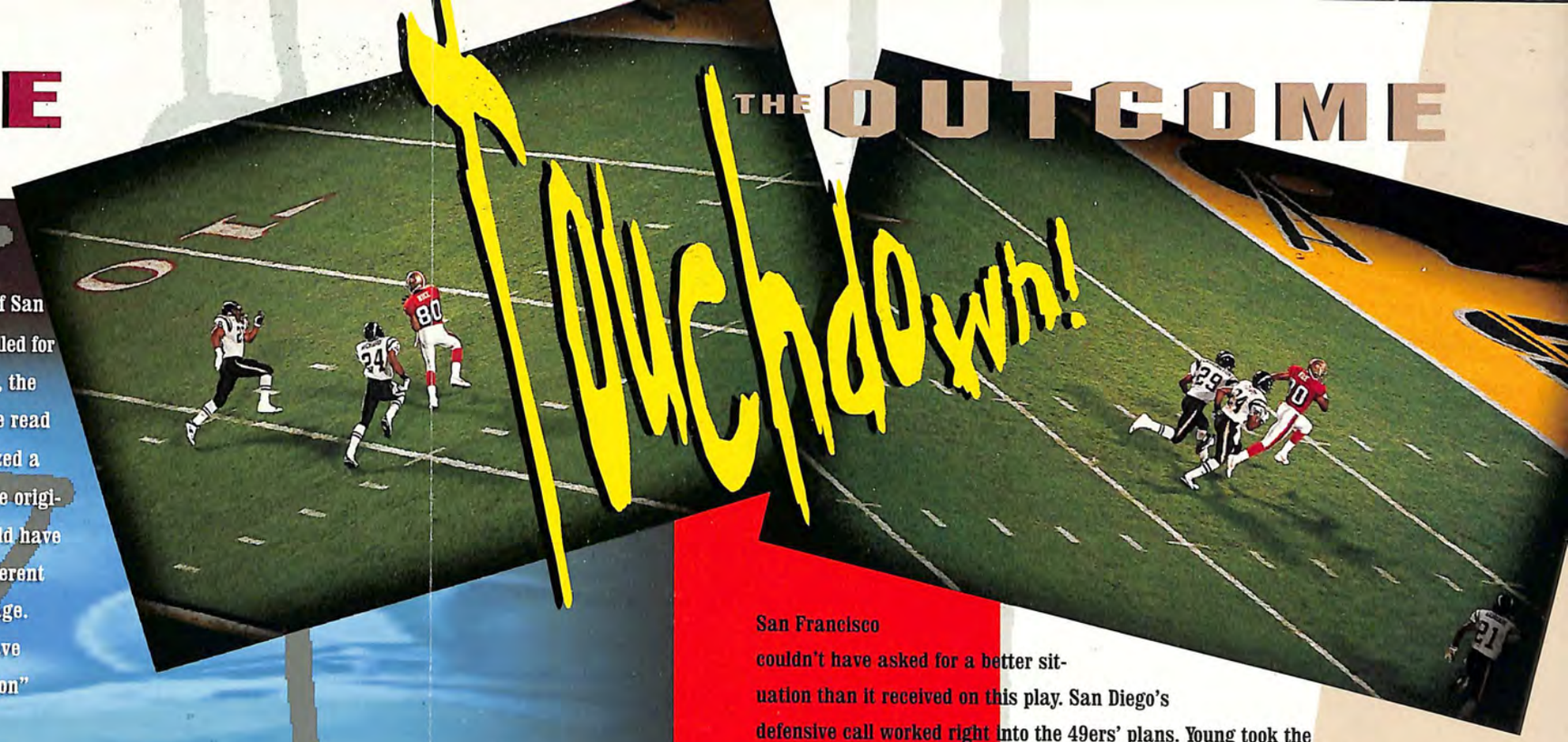
POTENTIAL AUDIBLE

"WHITE 30, WHITE 30, SET, HUT"

If the hot color was white for the 49ers, Young's cadence would be "White 30, White 30, Set, Hut." Again, white tells the other offensive players that the play is changing, and 30 is the actual play and the blocking scheme.



THE OUTCOME



San Francisco couldn't have asked for a better situation than it received on this play. San Diego's defensive call worked right into the 49ers' plans. Young took the snap, faked the draw, and dropped back about seven yards behind the line of scrimmage. The offensive line blocked masterfully, selling the run fake to San Diego's linebackers and allowing Young more than enough time to look over his receivers.

Young didn't have to look far. His first choice, Rice, was streaking between the safeties toward the middle of the field, which was left wide open. Rice didn't break stride, hauling in the pass around the 10-yard line and racing in for the touchdown—the fastest scoring play in Super Bowl history, 1:24 into the game.

The rest of the game was no different. San Francisco's offense used perfect play-calling and execution to generate 7 touchdowns, 28 first downs, and 455 total yards in its 49-26 victory. Young was named the game's most valuable player after completing 24 of 36 passes for 325 yards and a Super Bowl-record 6 touchdowns.

Communication was the key to the 49ers' victory in Super Bowl XXIX. Talent, options, and correct choices played a part, too, just as they do at GTE. In voice communications, data, video, customer service, and technical support, GTE teams with your business to provide solutions that work.
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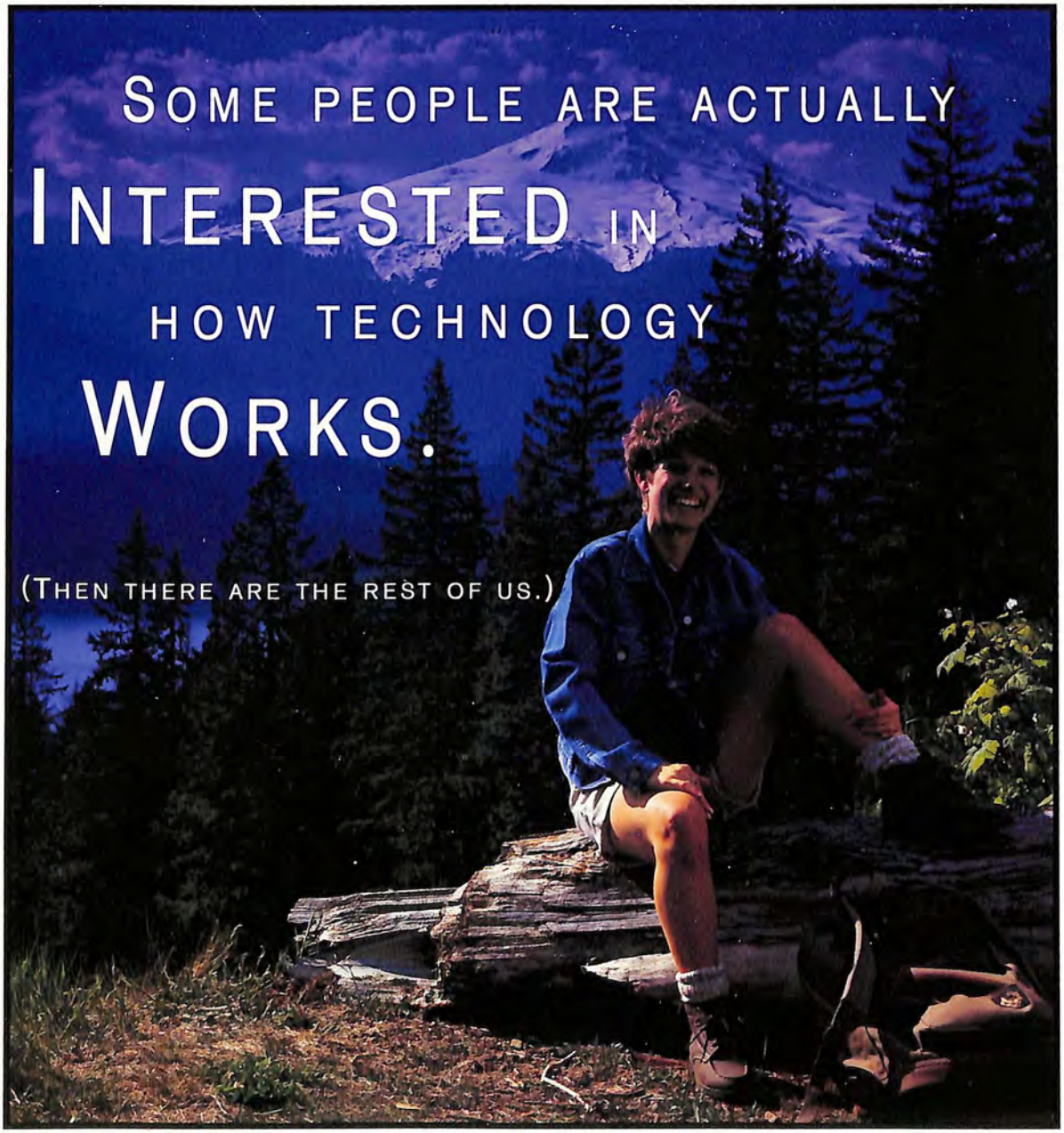
Shannon Anderson teleconferences from Everett, Washington.
Which she finds easier than spending a minute longer in the office than she has to.



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SCOUTING REPORT

AN IN-DEPTH
LOOK AT THE
AFC AND NFC CHAMPIONS

Around the League, we know the score.

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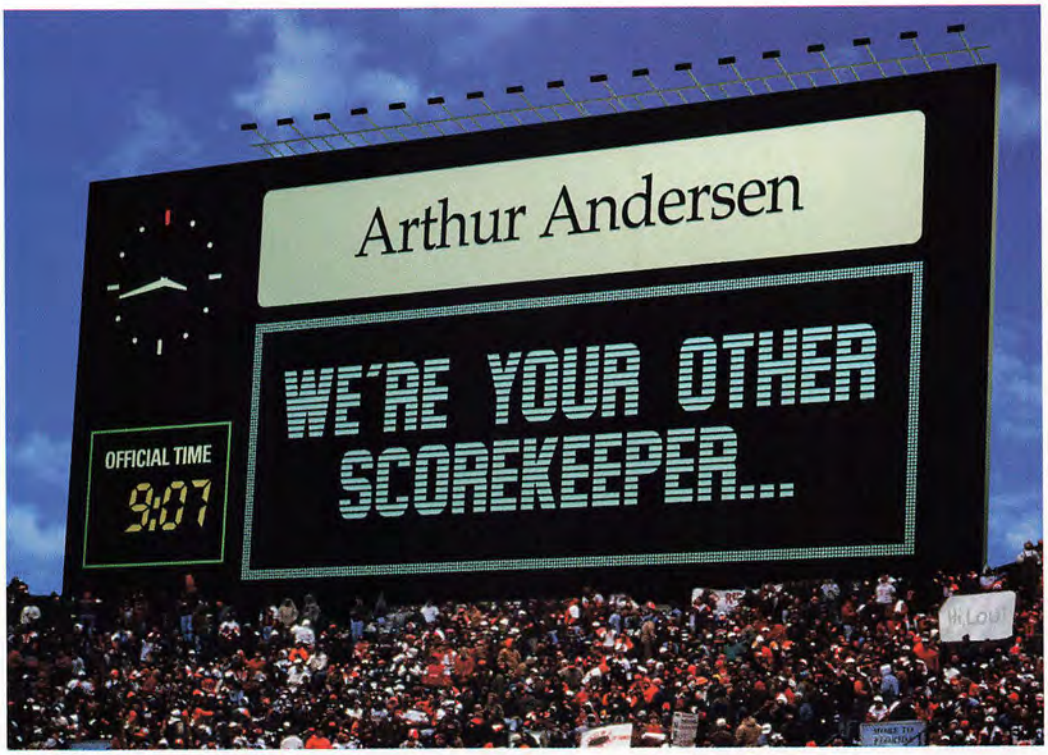

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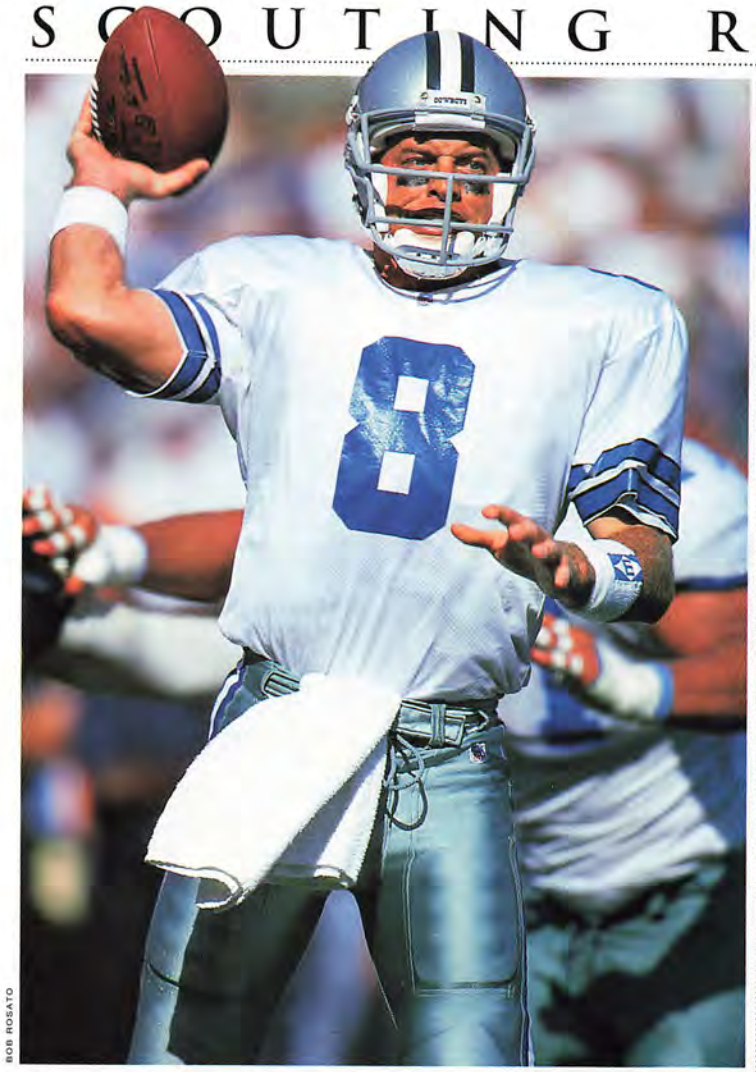


BOB ROSATO

Riding Shotgun: *Troy Aikman is among NFL's best—accurate, with minimum of errors.*

Here Come the Cowboys: A Cloud of Dust...and a Hearty Hi-Yo Switzer!

They are playing this game in Sun Devil Stadium, but it could just as well be playing at the local fourplex. This is *High Noon* and *Gunfight at the OK Corral* all over again. This is real-life theater in the desert.

America's Cowboys are striding down the NFL's Main Street once more. And of course they are looking for trouble.

So grab your popcorn and cue the music (and tell the women and children to stay off the streets of Tempe!). Those big, bad dudes from Dallas are back for a record eighth showdown.

The Cowboys have been here seven times before, and four times they have ridden home on white horses. The most recent successes were only two and three years ago, in Super Bowls XXVII and XXVIII.

Many of the Cowboys who rode in those games will be back in the saddle again in Super Bowl XXX. Jerry Jones, Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, and Jay Novacek will be there, among others. The missing include one of the lead Cowboys from those earlier gunfights, varmint name of Jimmy Johnson, replaced this time around by a fellow from Oklahoma, name of Barry Switzer.

The Dallas Cowboys have been America's Team for two decades, and they are that, and more. But this is Hollywood's Team, too, with more plot lines than a hundred western movies.

The Cowboys also are the stuff that headlines are made of, a team that seems to thrive on controversy.

Through it all, however, the Cowboys have the stuff that great teams are made of, a team of awesome talent and consummate skills.

Ten of these Cowboys' seasons will not end today. They were selected to play in Honolulu next weekend in the Pro Bowl. Incredibly, that's nearly one-fourth of a talent-laden NFC roster. Aikman, Smith, Irvin, and Novacek were chosen, and so were four offensive linemen (guards Nate Newton and Larry Allen, tackle Mark Tuinei, and center Ray Donaldson), defensive end Charles Haley, and safety Darren Woodson.

And yet many of the postmortem stories on the Pro Bowl choices couldn't help but note who *wasn't* chosen, notably the Cowboys' $35 million man, Deion Sanders.

The man called Prime Time (see Hollywood reference above) could become only the second man to play for different back-to-back Super Bowl champions. A year ago, he was the defensive linchpin in the 49ers' victory over San Diego. In the offseason, he moved his act (see headline reference above) to Dallas, with owner Jerry Jones making Sanders the richest player in football.

For much of the 1995 season, the Cowboys had trouble fitting Sanders into the multifaceted role that they had envisioned for him (corner-

DALLAS COWBOYS

Getting Some Respect: *Head coach Barry Switzer has won 75 percent of his games in two seasons with the Cowboys.*

back/wide receiver/kick returner), but that all changed in the playoffs, when Prime Time was back strutting his incredible stuff. He will be a major player today against the Steelers.

However, Switzer and the Cowboys will be dancing most of the Super Bowl dances with the three Astaires who got them to this dance—Aikman, Irvin, and Smith.

There may (emphasis on *may*) be a quarterback as skilled as Aikman in the NFL. There may (ditto) be a wide receiver as talented as Irvin. There may (double ditto) be a running back as blessed as Smith.

But *no one* has a threesome even remotely equal to this handsome onesome, which is what they really are, the sum of their parts being even greater than their individual brilliance. And each is at the peak of career maps that all have roads to Canton on them.

Aikman, 29, perenially is among the game's highest-rated passers. He also is consistently among the leaders in both completion percentage (he completed more than 70 percent of his passes in eight different games in 1995) and interception percentage (an NFC-best 1.6, with only 7 all year). At 6-4, 223 pounds, Aikman truly is a quarterback from central casting.

But then so, too, is his prime target, Irvin, 29, and a stretched-out 6-2, 207 pounds. Irvin caught a club-record 111 passes in 1995, scoring 10 touchdowns. He set an NFL record with 11 100-yard games. In eight NFL seasons, he has 527 receptions for an average of 16.2 yards. He has scored 50 touchdowns.

And yet for all of the derring-do of Aikman and Irvin, the Cowboys' most valuable player just might be the indomitable Smith, whose career is fast becoming one of which legends are made. Smith, 26, led the NFL in rushing in 1995 with a personal-best 1,773 yards. He has led the league in rushing in four of his six years, becoming the fifth man in history to do it four times. Smith also set an NFL record by scoring 25 touchdowns. In six years, he has rushed for 8,956 yards, averaged 4.5 yards a carry, and scored 100 total touchdowns.

Put Aikman, Irvin, and Smith behind what might be the NFL's best offensive line—then add tight end Novacek, fullback Daryl (Moose) Johnston, and wide receiver Kevin Williams—and you have Trouble with a capital T.

The sideline leader of this posse is a man who can't seem to get respect but now is only one victory away from it.

Barry Switzer inherited the unenviable role of succeeding a man (Jimmy Johnson) who had won consecutive Super Bowls. Switzer's team lost the 1994 NFC Championship Game to San Francisco, and he has had to suffer the slings and arrows of media and fans in spite of the fact that he has won three of every four games he has coached with the Cowboys (27 of 36). Whatever happens today, Switzer is a winner, but a victory would bring him the respect he desires.

Jerry Jones is the maverick owner who has made winning his business since buying the Cowboys seven years ago. Jones does it his way. The results speak for themselves.

In the 1990s, under two head coaches, Dallas has won 77 of 108 games.

Standing between a third Super Bowl championship in four years (and a fifth for the 36-year-old franchise) is one of the NFL's venerable organizations.

The late Art Rooney, Sr., founded the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1933, then passed the torch to his son Dan a couple decades ago.

The Cowboys and Steelers have met only twice in this decade, and are even at 13-13 going back to 1960. Two of the Steelers' victories over the Cowboys came in two of the greatest Super Bowls ever played, X and XIII. As if the 1995 Cowboys needed revenge as an additional motive.

SEASON AT A GLANCE

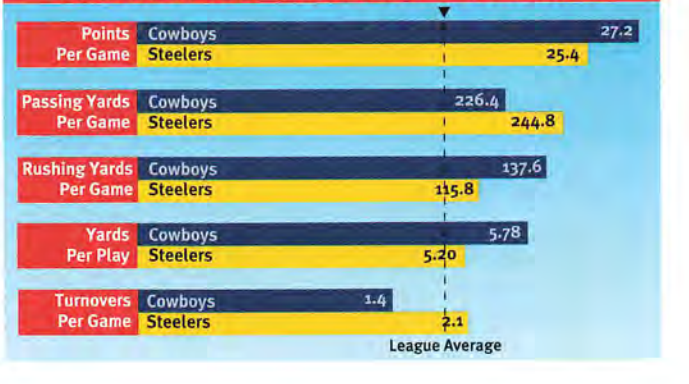
DALLAS COWBOYS (12-4)

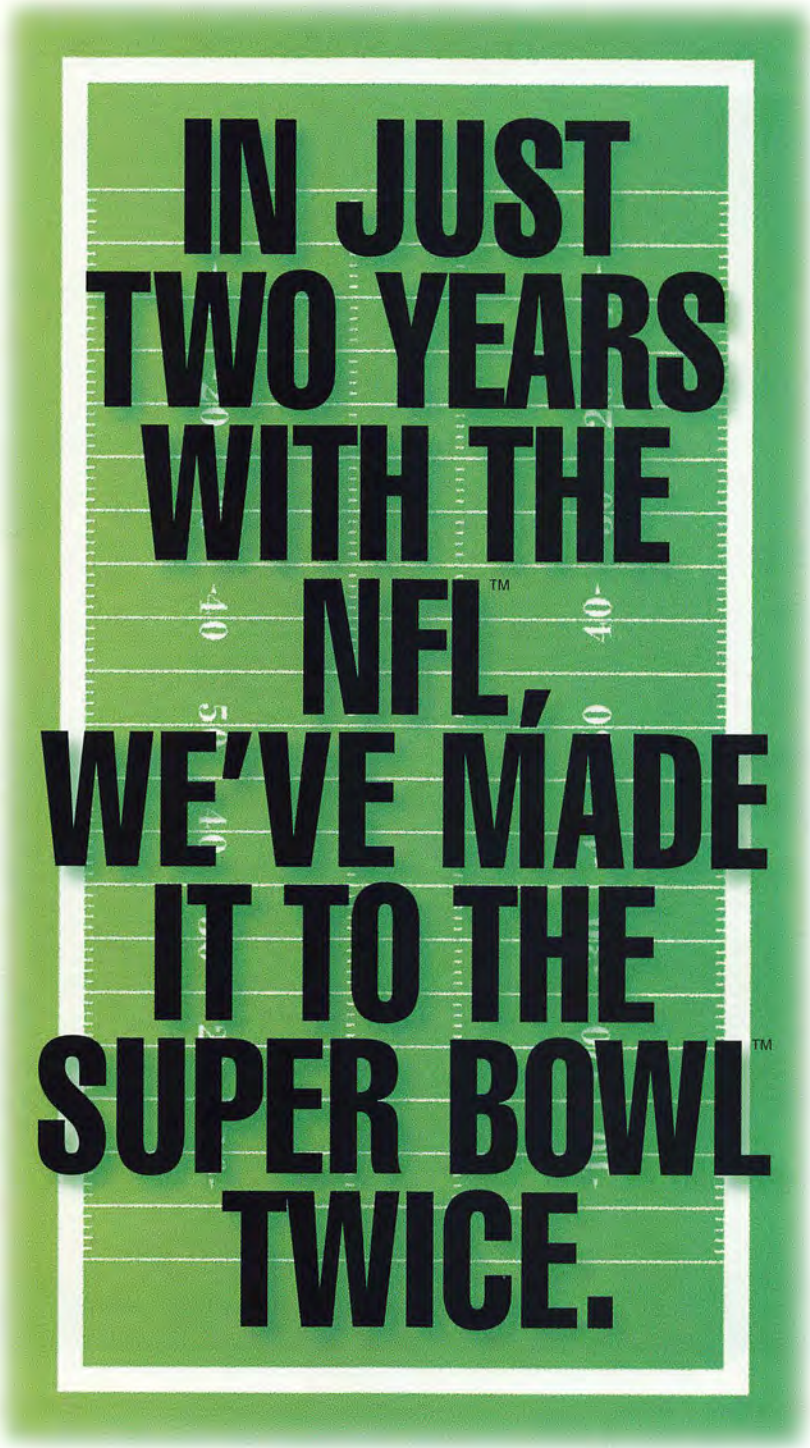
W 35-0	at N.Y. Giants
W 31-21	Denver
W 23-17 (OT)	at Minnesota
W 34-20	Arizona
L 23-27	at Washington
W 34-24	Green Bay
W 23-9	at San Diego
W 28-13	at Atlanta
W 34-12	Philadelphia
L 20-38	San Francisco
W 34-21	at Oakland
W 24-12	Kansas City
L 17-24	Washington
L 17-20	at Philadelphia
W 21-20	N.Y. Giants
W 37-13	at Arizona

PLAYOFFS

W 30-11	Philadelphia
W 38-27	Green Bay

COWBOYS VS. STEELERS • OFFENSE





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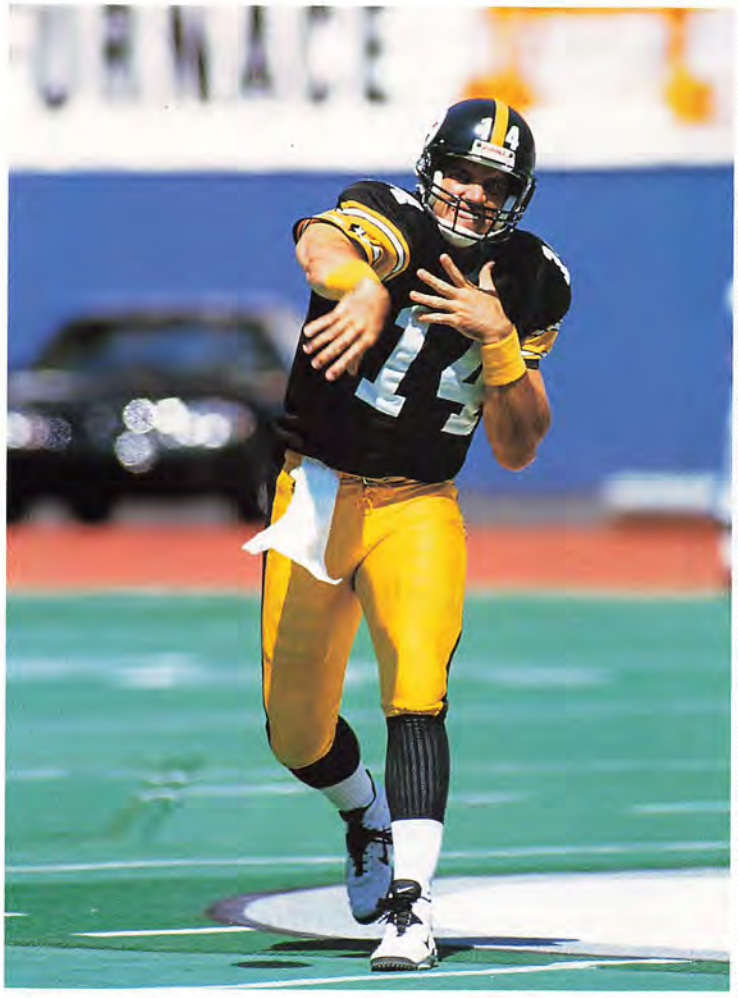


ALLEN KEE

NFC Dominance? The Pittsburgh Steelers Have Never Heard of It

Okay, let's say you're the AFC's biggest fan. Your conference has suffered 11 consecutive defeats at the hands of the NFC, many of them humiliating. You would do almost anything to reverse the trend and restore the AFC to its former dominant status.

So…who you gonna call?

If there are ghosts to be busted—even if they are the ghosts of Joe Montana, Phil Simms, Emmitt Smith, and other recent Super Bowl MVPs—perhaps it is time to turn to the team that once sent shivers of fear through Super Bowl-bound NFC teams. Maybe it's time for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

No one is claiming that Neil O'Donnell, Erric Pegram, and Jerry Olsavsky can approximate Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, and Jack Lambert, even on paper. But one name has remained constant since the Steel Curtain splendor of the 1970s. The name is Rooney.

Art Rooney and his favorite cigar are gone, but Dan Rooney runs the club the same way his father did—with humility, humanity, and ever-present humor.

And the city of Pittsburgh responds as it always did. This is a town that has held on to its memories. It's almost as if the fans have sat in cryogenics in Three Rivers Stadium the last 16 years, just waiting to be re-awakened by a pad-popping tackle. Try to tell a Steelers' booster that the glory days of the past are long gone, and you're liable to get snapped with a Terrible Towel.

On His Way: *Some quarterbacks have stronger arms than Neil O'Donnell, but few are as smart.*

Yes, Pittsburgh loves its team. Most of all, it loves Bill Cowher, the head coach with the bushy mustache under his nose and his heart on his sleeve.

Cowher was faced with an unenviable task this season. He had to revive a team that had climbed just short of the peak a year earlier, only to lose its hold and plummet into a long, painful offseason.

The Steelers, playing at home, were favored against the Chargers in the 1994 AFC Championship Game. They seemed to outplay San Diego for most of that game, too, but it was the Chargers who made the critical plays—and who advanced to Super Bowl XXIX.

The Steelers spoke of redemption as the 1995 season opened. "Three More Yards" became their battle cry, a reference to the failed fourth-and-3 play that ended Pittsburgh's hopes in the title game. Still, many wondered if they could recover from their trauma.

The outlook didn't get any brighter in the first game of the season, when both O'Donnell and cornerback Rod Woodson left the game with injuries. O'Donnell missed four games, but Woodson, a six-time Pro Bowl choice, sat out the entire season with ligament damage in his right knee.

"Rod's a great player, but the great teams overcome that," linebacker Greg Lloyd said at the time. "We'll find out where we stand."

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

I Love You, Men: *Bill Cowher, the youngest head coach in Super Bowl history, never has been afraid to let his feelings show.*

For a while, where they stood was on shaky ground. Mike Tomczak struggled as O'Donnell's replacement. Against Minnesota, the Steelers turned the ball over 7 times. And the secondary sorely missed Woodson.

"We've been like a yo-yo," Cowher said after the season's nadir, a 20-16 loss to the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars. "We come out and play good one week and don't play good the other week."

Well, not exactly. The Steelers lost again in their next game, to Cincinnati. That failure left the team 3-4. It was the latest point at which Pittsburgh had been sub-.500 in Cowher's four seasons as head coach.

Cowher decided it was time for drastic action. He switched starters at 9 of 22 positions, even asking Pro Bowl safety Carnell Lake to play cornerback for the first time in his career.

The effects of the personnel changes were immediate and dramatic. The Steelers mounted a methodical eight-game winning streak (their longest since 1978-79). They won close games, they won laughers; they won at Three Rivers Stadium and on the road.

By week 14 they had breezed to the AFC Central title, making Cowher only the fourth coach in NFL history to guide his team to the playoffs in each of his first four seasons. (The others were Paul Brown, Chuck Knox, and John Robinson.)

After a sluggish victory over Buffalo, the Steelers returned to the scene of the crime, hosting the underdog Colts in the AFC title game.

As Indianapolis clawed its way to a fourth-quarter lead, Pittsburgh's fans couldn't help but feel as if they were revisiting an ugly segment of their recent past. It wasn't until the Colts' last-ditch pass barely fell incomplete on the game's final play that they finally exhaled.

Then it all sank in. For the first time in 16 years, the Steelers were in position to bring the Vince Lombardi Trophy back to steel country—for a fifth time.

"I've been in the league eleven years and I've come up short every year but this one," linebacker Kevin Greene said afterward. "It's tremendous."

Which leads to a rather obvious question: Do these guys have a chance?

It depends which side of the steel coin you look at. Is this the team that beat only two eventual playoff entries (wild cards Detroit and San Diego) during the regular season, then stumbled past the wounded Bills and the unsung Colts in the postseason?

Or is this the hottest team in football, the squad that won 10 of its last 11 games? (And remember, the one loss came at Green Bay, when Pro Bowl wide receiver Yancey Thigpen dropped what would have been the winning touchdown pass with 11 seconds left in the game.)

One thing is clear: Though the Steelers have few superstars—the closest facsimilies would be Greene and Lloyd, the mirror-image terrors at outside linebacker—they have virtually no weak links.

O'Donnell is a smart quarterback who doesn't make mistakes (his career interception percentage is lowest ever for an NFL quarterback with 1,500 attempts); the running game is versatile; the defense ranked third in the NFL, second against the rush; the special teams are excellent.

Still, it will be an uphill battle against the star-studded Cowboys and their roster full of product spokesmen.

Perhaps the key is whether the Steelers can match the emotional intensity and unbridled desire of their head coach, who happens to be the youngest in Super Bowl history.

"This game does not build character," Cowher says. "It reveals character."

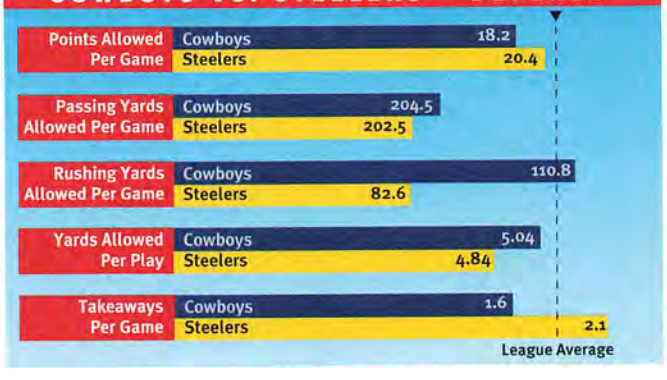
In Super Bowl XXX, America will find out just how much of that commodity resides in the Pittsburgh Steelers.

SEASON AT A GLANCE

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (11-5)

W 23-20	Detroit
W 34-17	at Houston
L 10-23	at Miami
L 24-44	Minnesota
W 31-16	San Diego
L 16-20	at Jacksonville
L 9-27	Cincinnati
W 24-7	Jacksonville
W 37-34 (OT)	at Chicago
W 20-3	Cleveland
W 49-31	at Cincinnati
W 20-17	at Cleveland
W 21-7	Houston
W 29-10	at Oakland
W 41-27	New England
L 19-24	at Green Bay
PLAYOFFS	
W 40-21	Buffalo
W 20-16	Indianapolis

COWBOYS VS. STEELERS • DEFENSE



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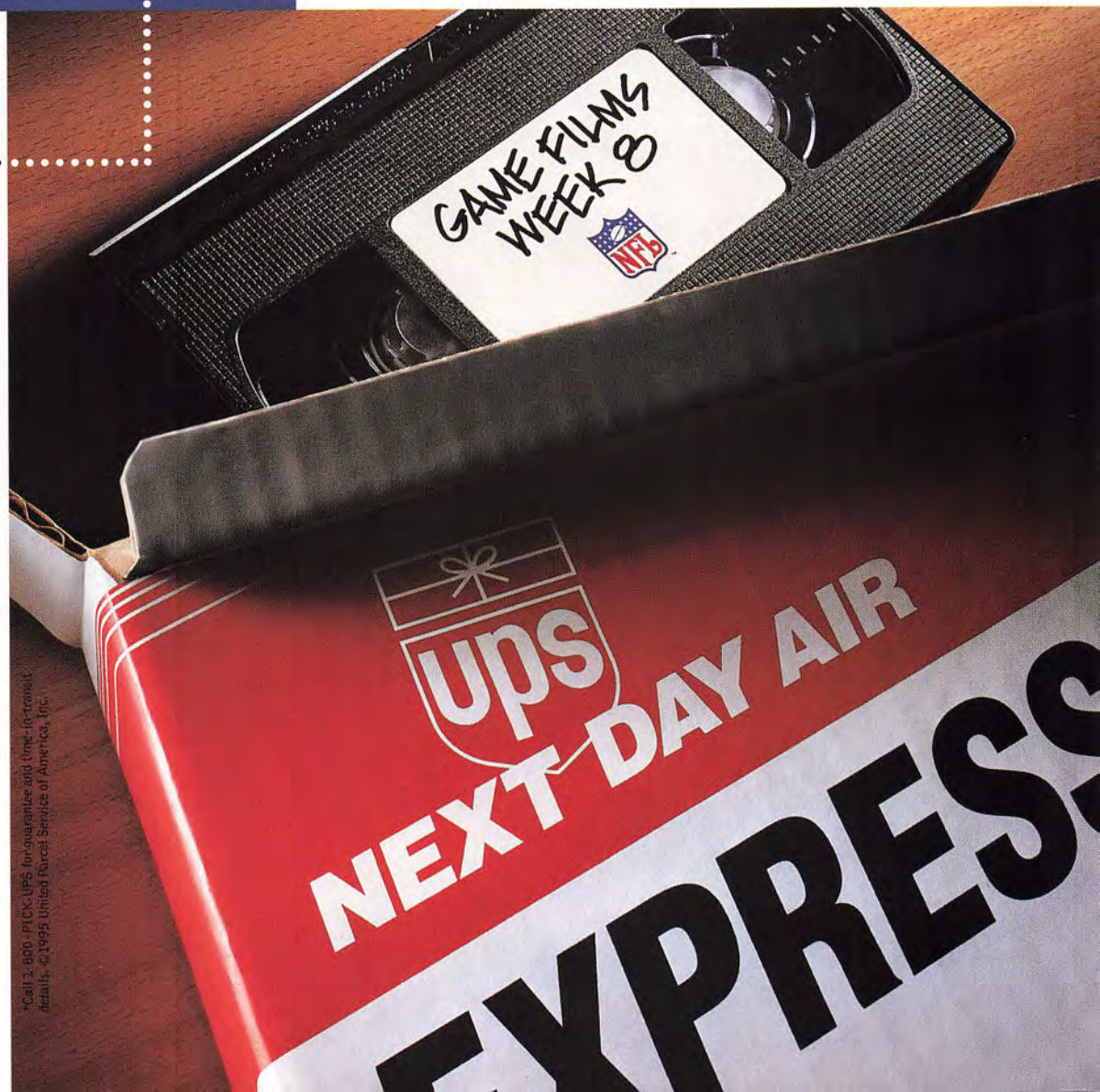

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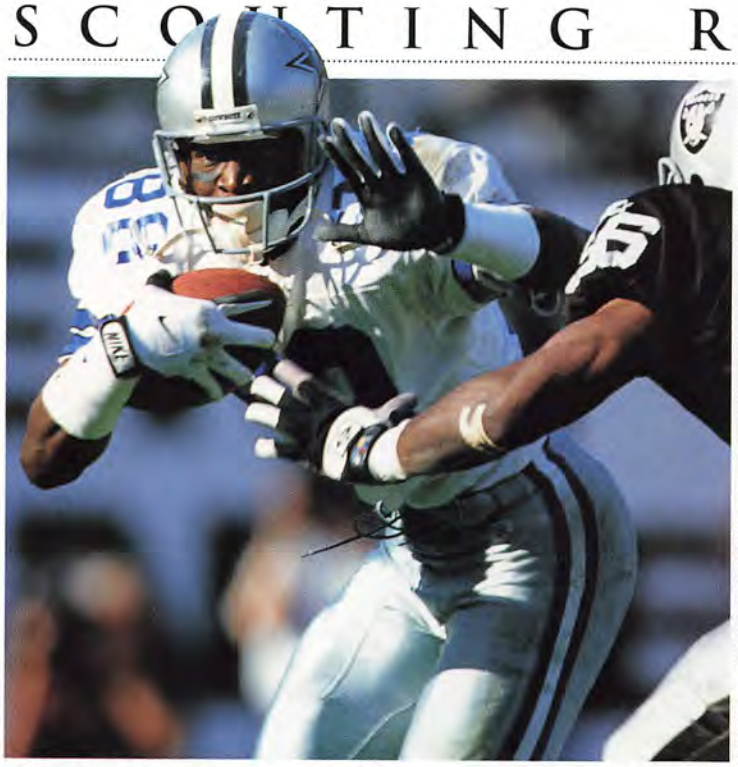


RON VESELY

Triple Threat: *Michael Irvin's combination of speed, size, and strength makes him one of the most dangerous receivers in the NFL.*

When Cowboys Look to the Skies, They Discover No Shortage of Stars

You loved them in Super Bowl XXVII. You thrilled to them in Super Bowl XXVIII. Now, back by popular demand, the award-winning stars of the Cowboys' passing game: Troy Aikman, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, as the strong, silent quarterback; Jay Novacek, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, as the sure-handed, raw-boned tight end; Michael Irvin, a five-time Pro Bowl selection, as the deep threat who will not be contained.

Okay, so they are not exactly secret weapons.

But here is an aspect of the Dallas offense that is not so publicized: The Cowboys regard the forward pass merely as a complement to their running game.

In an era defined by multiple-receiver formations and record-setting passing attacks, the Cowboys are a rarity—one of only two NFC teams (Philadelphia is the other) to have more running plays than passing attempts this season.

Twelve NFL teams passed for more yardage in 1995. Twenty-one threw more touchdown passes. The Dallas passing game isn't about statistics, it's about about winning. The results are a hefty 7.08 yards per pass play—and only 18 quarterback sacks.

All of which is not to say the Cowboys can't put the ball in the air. Irvin didn't catch 111 passes and score 10 touchdowns by being a decoy.

He was the club's leading receiver in all but three regular-season games, and he *averaged* 100 receiving yards per game. At 6 feet 2 inches and 205 pounds, he is the strength-size-speed combination that causes defensive backs to lose sleep.

Novacek plays a different role—his longest reception this season was for 33 yards—but his clutch catches and 6-4 frame make him a frequent third-down target.

What if you shut down those two weapons? The Eagles found out in a divisional playoff game. They limited Novacek to 3 catches (27 yards) and Irvin to 1 (9). So Aikman set his sights on third-year receiver Kevin Williams (6 for 124) and running backs Emmitt Smith and Daryl Johnston (6 for 80).

There's another name that can't escape mention: Deion Sanders, the cornerback who craves the offensive spotlight, won't pass up a golden opportunity like this to run a few pass patterns.

KEY FACTS

- The Cowboys allowed the second-fewest sacks in the NFL (18) and tied for the fewest passes intercepted (10).
- Dallas's loss to Philadelphia in week 15, in which the Eagles shut down Michael Irvin, prompted the Cowboys to look more for Kevin Williams. The third-year receiver responded with 14 receptions for 288 yards in the last two regular-season games, and 124 receiving yards in the Cowboys' playoff victory over Philadelphia.

RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Irvin	111	1,603	14.4	50	10
Novacek	62	705	11.4	33t	5
E. Smith	62	375	6.0	40	0
K. Williams	38	613	16.1	48t	2
Johnston	30	248	8.3	24	1
Bjornson	7	53	7.6	16	0
Fleming	6	83	13.8	16	0
S. Williams	3	28	9.3	24	0
Sanders	2	25	12.5	19	0
Watkins	1	8	8.0	8	0

t-touchdown

PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
Aikman	432	280	64.8	3,304	7.65	16	3.7	7	1.6	50	14/89	93.6
Wilson	57	38	66.7	391	6.86	1	1.8	3	5.3	38	4/29	70.1
Garrett	5	4	80.0	46	9.20	1	20.0	0	0.0	24	0/0	144.6

PASSING

PASSING

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

Good Hands: *Yancey Thigpen made the hard catches look easy and gained 1,307 receiving yards to rank second in the AFC.*

This Season, the Steelers Became a Team That Wins With the Pass

Neil O'Donnell matured into the undisputed leader of the Steelers' offense this season. He does not have the arm strength of John Elway nor the mobility of Steve Young, and his low passing delivery makes him vulnerable to batted passes.

But O'Donnell is smart, makes good decisions, and rarely forces the ball into tight coverage. His 7 interceptions in 1995 were the second-fewest in the AFC, and he has led the Steelers to victory in nearly 64 percent of his starts. He missed almost all of the first five games with an injury, then he roared back to help the Steelers turn their season around. His backup is veteran Mike Tomczak.

Much of O'Donnell's success can be attributed to his offensive line. Tackles John Jackson and Leon Searcy and Pro Bowl center Dermontti Dawson regularly shut down opponents' top pass rushers. The Steelers' quarterbacks were sacked only 24 times in 1995 (fourth-fewest in the NFL) and only once in the playoffs.

Wide receiver Yancey Thigpen was voted to his first Pro Bowl after catching 85 passes. Andre Hastings led the AFC and was third in the NFL with 31 third-down receptions, many of them on quick slants that are the strength of Pittsburgh's passing game. But it is Ernie Mills, the team leader with 8 touchdown catches and an average of 17.4 yards per catch, who has emerged as Pittsburgh's big-play receiver.

Kordell Stewart, listed as a quarterback, blossomed into an all-purpose star and offensive sparkplug in his first NFL season. Dallas always will have to account for Stewart when he is in the game. Stewart and wide receiver Corey Holliday join Thigpen, Mills, and Hastings in Pittsburgh's five-wide-receiver package.

Tight end Mark Bruener was an added receiving threat in his first year, complementing Jonathan Hayes, who is a superior blocker.

The Steelers also like to use running backs Erric Pegram and tough John L. Williams as receivers out of the backfield. Both are dangerous in the open field, particularly Pegram if he has blockers out front.

KEY FACTS

- Neil O'Donnell's career interception rate of 2.1 percent (39 interceptions in 1,871 attempts) is the lowest in league history.
- The 1995 Steelers set a club record with 3,917 passing yards, a 32 percent rise from the year before. It was definitely a ball-control pass offense, though, as they led the league in average time of possession (32 minutes 36 seconds).
- Andre Hastings led the AFC with 31 third-down receptions.

RECEIVING

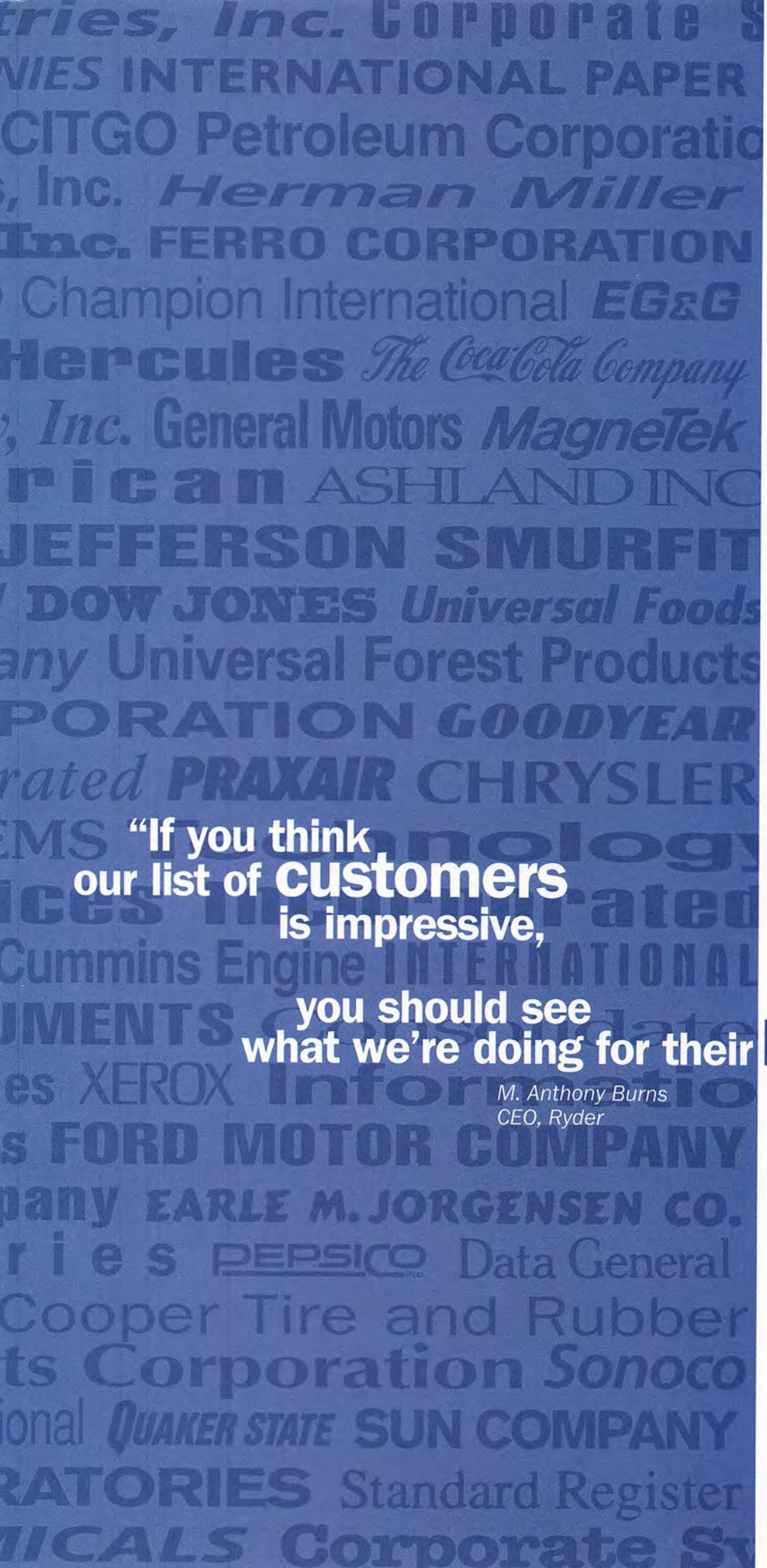
	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Thigpen	85	1,307	15.4	43	5
Hastings	48	502	10.5	36	1
Mills	39	679	17.4	62t	8
C. Johnson	38	432	11.4	33	0
Bruener	26	238	9.2	29	3
Pegram	26	206	7.9	22	1
J. Williams	24	127	5.3	20	1
McAfee	15	88	5.9	18	0
Stewart	14	235	16.8	71t	1
Hayes	11	113	10.3	32	0
Avery	11	82	7.5	18t	1
Morris	8	36	4.5	13	0
Barnes	3	48	16.0	25	0

t-touchdown

PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	Long	Sacked/ Yards	Rating
O'Donnell	416	246	59.1	2,970	7.14	17	4.1	7	1.7	71t	15/126	87.7
Tomczak	113	65	57.5	666	5.89	1	0.9	9	8.0	29	6/42	44.3
Miller	56	32	57.1	397	7.09	2	3.6	5	8.9	42t	2/8	53.9
Stewart	7	5	71.4	60	8.57	1	14.3	0	0.0	32	1/0	136.9

t-touchdown



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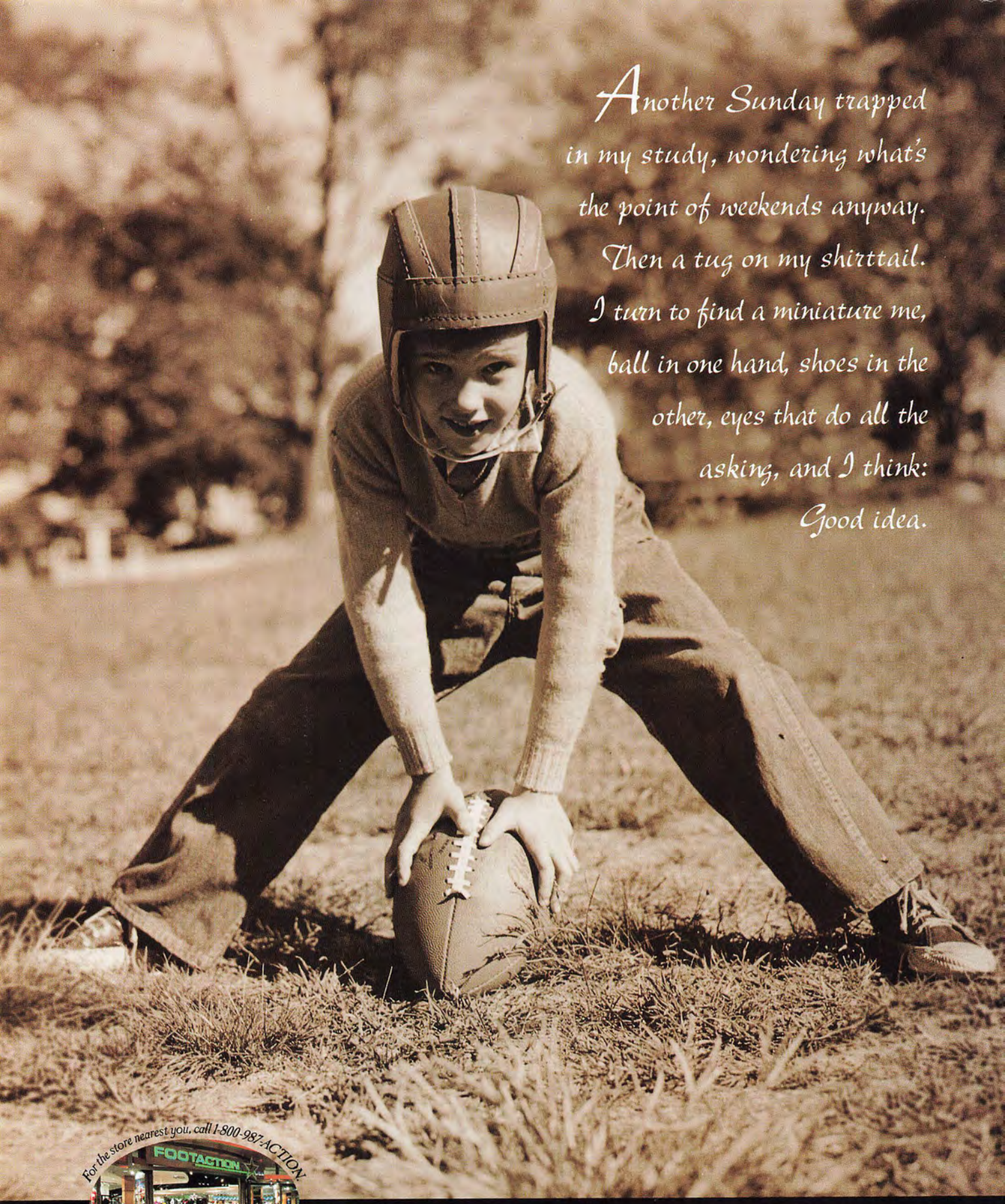
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JAMES D. SMITH

Mr. Touchdown: *In only six seasons, Emmitt Smith has moved into fifth place on the NFL's all-time rushing touchdown list with 96.*

Running Back Emmitt Smith Is the Law Regarding the Cowboys' Success

In life, people have learned to live by various scientific laws such as the law of gravity, the laws of motion, and the laws of thermodynamics.

In Dallas, fans live by Emmitt Smith's Law, which states that when the six-time Pro Bowl running back excels, so do the Cowboys.

In fact, Dallas's ability to earn three Super Bowl berths in the past four years can be linked directly to Smith's ability to carry the ball.

During his six-year career, Dallas has posted a 61-8 record when he has 20 or more rushing attempts and is 43-5 when he surpasses the century mark in yardage.

In the NFC Championship Game against Green Bay, the Super Bowl XXVIII most valuable player set a club playoff record with 35 carries. Smith finished with 150 rushing yards and 3 touchdowns to help the Cowboys control the ball and keep the Packers' potent offense off the field for much of Dallas's 38-27 victory.

This season may have been Smith's most impressive. Not only did he set the NFL's single-season record for rushing and total touchdowns with 25, he also led the NFL in rushing (1,773 yards) for the fourth time in the past five years.

The slashing runner was the reason the Cowboys finished second in the NFL in rushing offense, averaging 137.6 yards per game in 1995.

RUSHING

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
E. Smith	377	1,773	4.7	60*t*	25
S. Williams	48	205	4.3	44*t*	1
Johnston	25	111	4.4	18	2
K. Williams	10	53	5.3	14	0
Aikman	21	32	1.5	12	1
Wilson	10	12	1.2	11	0
Sanders	2	9	4.5	8	0
Lang	1	7	7.0	7	0
Garrett	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0

t-touchdown

KEY FACTS

- Emmitt Smith, the NFL's top runner in 1995, is the only player to win a rushing title and a Super Bowl ring in the same season (he did it in 1992 and 1993).
- Smith averaged 5.1 yards per carry on turf and 3.5 yards on grass in 1995. He has averaged nearly a yard better on turf (4.7) than grass (3.8) in his career, and he only ran for 68 yards on 22 carries against the Cardinals' league-worst run defense in his last appearance at Sun Devil Stadium.

Smith does most of his damage between the tackles, and sometimes it's difficult for fans (and opponents) to find the 5-foot, 9-inch, 209-pound dynamo among his offensive linemen, who average 6 feet 4 inches tall and 323 pounds.

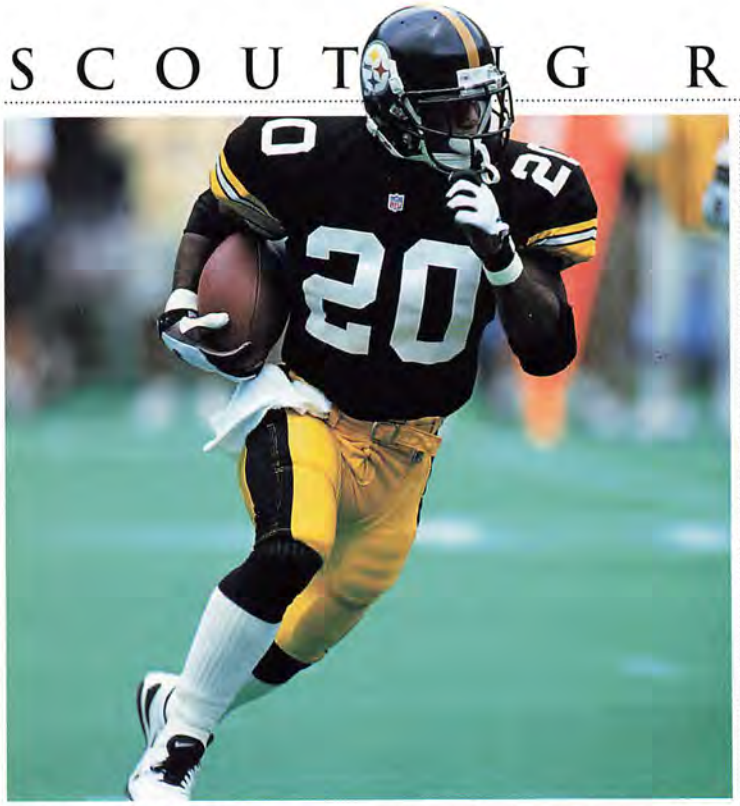
However, if you pay close attention to the left side of Dallas's offensive line, you'll have at least a 75 percent chance of catching a glimpse of Smith.

Four members of the Cowboys' offensive line (left tackle Mark Tuinei, left guard Nate Newton, center Ray Donaldson, and right guard Larry Allen) were selected to the Pro Bowl this year.

Donaldson was chosen even though he missed the final four games of the season with a broken ankle. Add right tackle Erik Williams (6-6, 324), who made the Pro Bowl in 1994, and 10-year veteran Derek Kennard (6-3, 333), who has taken over for Donaldson, and you've got a wall that's as imposing as the Great Wall of China.

The most unheralded, but extremely vital, cog in the Cowboys' dominating ground attack is fullback Daryl Johnston (6-2, 242). Known by his nickname "Moose," Johnston's impressive blocking at the point of attack and clutch pass catching have earned him two Pro Bowl selections.

RUSHING



ALLEN KEE

Mr. Outside: *Erric Pegram was one-third of Pittsburgh's troika of ball carriers in 1995, a group that battled a year-long inferiority complex.*

Three Parts Make a Whole: Steelers' Ground Game a Melange of Styles

If the Pittsburgh Steelers' rushing offense spends any time this offseason on the psychiatrist's couch, it will complain of an inferiority complex and having multiple personalities.

All season long, rushing played second fiddle in Pittsburgh, a polar opposite from 1994. While the team improved in the league passing rankings from twenty-third to eighth, it dropped in rushing from first to twelfth.

To deal with this inferiority complex, the Steelers turned to a three-part solution made up of Mr. Inside, Mr. Outside, and Mr. Everywhere.

Mr. Inside: Coming off an 836-yard rookie season in 1994, Byron (Bam) Morris entered 1995 as the starting halfback. But a weight problem and a back injury limited his effectiveness, and he played a backup role most of the season. Morris led the team with 9 rushing touchdowns, many on short-yardage plays. His most important short score was the 1-yard game-winner in the AFC Championship Game.

Mr. Outside: A 1,000-yard runner with Atlanta (in 1993), Erric Pegram began the season backing up Morris, but he was starting by week 5. Pegram finished the year leading the team with 813 yards. His slashing, quick-cutting, speed-based style is a vast contrast to the bull-rush, head-butting methods of Morris.

Mr. Everywhere: As fans throughout the NFL learned, Kordell (Slash) Stewart is a multi-talented threat. And, while he had only 15 carries in the regular season, 9 went for first downs, including 1 for a 22-yard touchdown.

Other minor personalities flared up, including fullback John L. Williams and running back Fred McAfee.

Pittsburgh's running plays look basically the same for both Pegram and Morris, mostly off tackle or up the middle, but the styles in which they are run differ greatly, as befits their abilities. For Stewart, however, the gloves are off. Expect reverses (and reverse passes), pitches, and runs from an option-quarterback position.

Blocking for this multi-module running attack is a veteran offensive line. Four-time Pro Bowl selection Dermontti Dawson is one of the few centers in the league who can pull and lead runners through tackle-created holes. Leon Searcy and John Jackson are solid tackles. For the guard positions, Pittsburgh uses a rotation system, with Brenden Stai, Justin Strzelczyk, and Tom Newberry sharing time.

More than just a decoy for the pass, but less than a powerful weapon, the Pittsburgh rushing attack can't afford to be insecure against Dallas.

KEY FACTS

- Pittsburgh's top-ranked rushing offense from 1994 fell to twelfth this season because of injuries that slowed several running backs and offensive linemen.
- The Steelers averaged 129.5 rushing yards per game in their 11 victories and only 85.6 rushing yards in their five defeats. More telling is that they committed at least 1 turnover in four of their five losses. Only against Green Bay did they play mistake-free football and still lose.

RUSHING

	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Pegram	213	813	3.8	38	5
Morris	148	559	3.8	30*t*	9
McAfee	39	156	4.0	22*t*	1
J. Williams	29	110	3.8	31	0
Stewart	15	86	5.7	22*t*	1
O'Donnell	24	45	1.9	14	0
Mills	5	39	7.8	20	0
Tomczak	11	25	2.3	11	0
Hastings	1	14	14.0	14	0
Lester	5	9	1.8	3	1
Avery	1	3	3.0	3	0
Miller	1	2	2.0	2	0
Thigpen	1	1	1.0	1	0
C. Johnson	1	-10	-10.0	-10	0

t-touchdown

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GREG TROTT

Prime Time: *Deion Sanders (21) is the flashiest of the Cowboys in the secondary, but Darren Woodson (28) is heading to the Pro Bowl.*

Lacking a Strong Pass Rush, Dallas Relies on Big-Play Cover Men

The Cowboys' 38-27 victory over the Packers in the NFC Championship Game was barely in the record book when Dallas coach Barry Switzer was asked what he remembered most about his NFL coaching debut, which came against the Steelers in 1994.

"I remember Charles Haley had four sacks," Switzer said.

He was right. Haley sacked Pittsburgh quarterback Neil O'Donnell 4 times in Dallas's 26-9 rout in the '94 season opener.

Dallas's coach clearly was hoping Haley could return in time for the Super Bowl. The Cowboys' pass defense suffered a severe blow when the four-time Pro Bowl defensive end was sent to the sideline with major back surgery early in December. (His status for today's game was uncertain.)

Haley led the Cowboys with 10½ sacks in 1995 (tied for third in the NFC at the time of his injury). Next best, with 5½ each, were end Tony Tolbert and tackle Chad Hennings.

Dallas's sack production was off nearly 25 percent from 1994, but even if they can't get to the opposing quarterback, the Cowboys can rely on their team speed.

Speed can make up for a lot of deficiencies—and Dallas has an abundance of team speed among its linebackers and defensive backs.

That's one reason the Cowboys finished eighth in the NFL in pass defense (204.5 yards per game) despite managing only 36 sacks (tied for fourteenth). Dallas intercepted 19 passes during the regular season, and tied a club record by returning 4 of them for touchdowns.

Linebackers Dixon Edwards, Robert Jones, and Darrin Smith all are capable against the pass, and can drop into zone coverage.

With flashy Deion Sanders (28 tackles and 2 interceptions in nine games) manning one cornerback, consistent Larry Brown receives little recognition at the other.

Brown is one of the most underrated cornerbacks in the game, and his 6 interceptions during the regular season tied for the team lead. His fourth-quarter interception set up the clinching touchdown in the victory over the Packers.

Free safety Brock Marion also had 6 interceptions. Strong safety Darren Woodson has enough strength to deliver punishing tackles, and quick enough to cover opposing receivers and tight ends. He'll take his team-leading 144 tackles to the Pro Bowl.

When the Cowboys go to their Nickel package, safety Scott Case (32 tackles) will replace Edwards.

KEY FACTS

- Dallas's pass defense, the NFL's best in 1994, fell to eighth this season. The 1995 Cowboys surrendered 32.5 more yards per game, permitted a 56.0 completion rate (51.5 the year before), and applied less pressure (36 sacks, 11 fewer than 1994).
- Cornerback Deion Sanders failed to score in 1995 for the first time in his seven-year career, although he did run 21 yards for a touchdown in the Cowboys' playoff victory over Philadelphia.

INTERCEPTIONS • SACKS

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Brown	6	124	20.7	65t	2
Marion	6	40	6.7	32t	1
Woodson	2	46	23.0	37t	1
Sanders	2	34	17.0	34	0
Myles	1	15	15.0	15	0
Brice	1	2	2.0	2	0
Holmes	1	0	0.0	0	0

t-touchdown

Haley	10.5
Hennings	5.5
Tolbert	
Lett	3.0
D. Smith	
Carver	2.5
Maryland	2.0
McCormack	
Jones	1.0

(Dallas also was credited with 1 team sack.)

PASSING DEFENSE

PASSING DEFENSE

The Defenders: *Linebacker Greg Lloyd (95) and cornerbacks Willie Williams (27) and Carnell Lake (37) make Steelers' defense formidable.*

L.C. LAMBRECHT

Success of Steelers' Pass Coverage Depends on Linebackers' Pressure

If the Steelers' secondary is to succeed against the Dallas offense, the linebackers hold the key, especially Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd.

The amount of pressure they can exert on Troy Aikman likely will determine how successful Pittsburgh can be against the pass. The secondary knows it doesn't have to stay glued to receivers for long because opposing quarterbacks usually have so little time to throw. That group primarily is responsible for most of the pass coverage in Pittsburgh's defensive scheme.

Not many would have tabbed the Steelers as AFC champions after preseason and early-season injuries inflicted deep wounds to the secondary that helped Pittsburgh finish as AFC runner-up in 1994

Rod Woodson, their best defensive back, suffered a season-ending knee injury in the season opener, and Deon Figures was counted out before the season began because of a bullet wound to his knee.

But the Steelers did recover and ranked sixth in pass defense in the NFL and third in overall defense in '95.

Willie Williams, a third-year pro not even expected to make the roster, stepped up in Figures's cornerback spot and finished the season with a team-high 7 interceptions.

Pro Bowl strong safety Carnell Lake moved from his normal position to right cornerback. Lake plays receivers very physically in man for man coverage. He and Williams have made the corners among the strongest parts of Pittsburgh's defense. Alvoid Mays is the third cornerback and had 2 interceptions and 37 tackles.

Safeties Darren Perry and Myron Bell do a solid job. Perry is a big hitter who finished the season with 70 tackles and 4 interceptions. Bell, who didn't start until midseason, also is a hard hitter with good instincts

The deep backs will be able to contain the explosive pass offense of the Cowboys, but only if Greene, Lloyd, and the rest of the Steelers' front seven keep Aikman off balance.

Inside linebackers Chad Brown, Levon Kirkland, and Jerry Olsavsky will be expected to contain the run and cover tight end Jay Novacek and fullback Daryl Johnston coming out of the backfield.

The Steelers produced 42 sacks this season. Greene had 9 and defensive end Ray Seals 8½. Lloyd had 6½. When the Steelers go to a four-man front, Lloyd drops into pass coverage as the middle linebacker.

If the Steelers can pressure Aikman, they can win Super Bowl XXX.

KEY FACTS

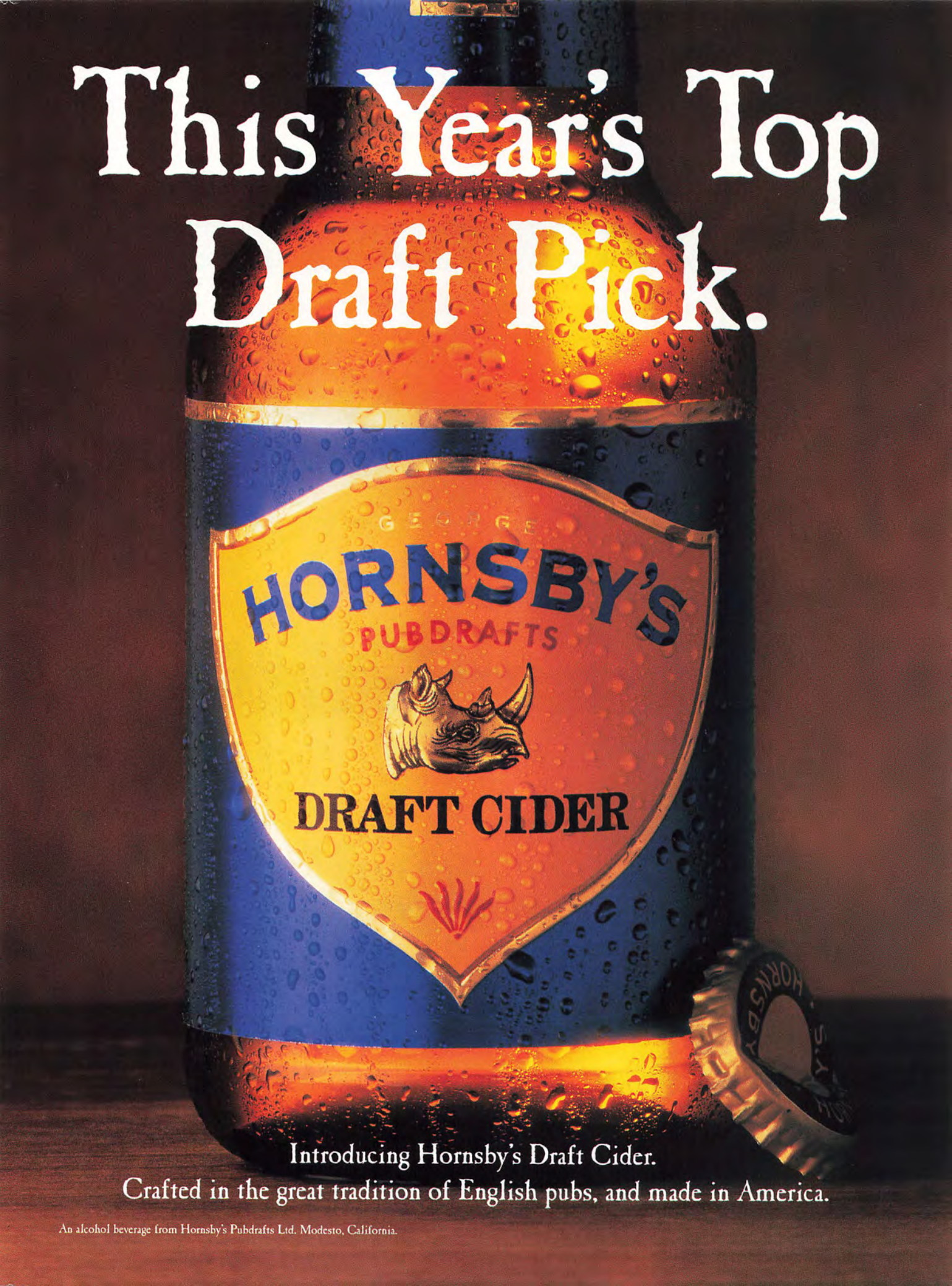
- The Steelers' pass defense was down just a notch in 1995 despite losing two starters (Rod Woodson and Deon Figures) from the previous year to injuries. They fell from third in the league to sixth, allowing 22.9 more yards per game.
- Cornerback Alvoid Mays is the only Steeler with Super Bowl experience. He played Nickel back for Washington in XXVI.
- Kevin Greene is tied for third among active players with 108 career sacks.

INTERCEPTIONS • SACKS

	Int.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
W. Williams	7	122	17.4	63t	1
Perry	4	71	17.8	26	0
Lloyd	3	85	28.3	52	0
A. Mays	2	35	17.5	32t	1
Bell	2	4	2.0	4	0
Lake	1	32	32.0	32t	1
Oldham	1	12	12.0	12	0
K. Greene	1	0	0.0	0	0
Seals	1	0	0.0	0	0

t-touchdown

K. Greene	9.0
Seals	8.5
Lloyd	6.5
C. Brown	5.5
Buckner	3.0
Gildon	
Henry	2.0
Lake	1.5
Kirkland	1.0
Olsavsky	
Steed	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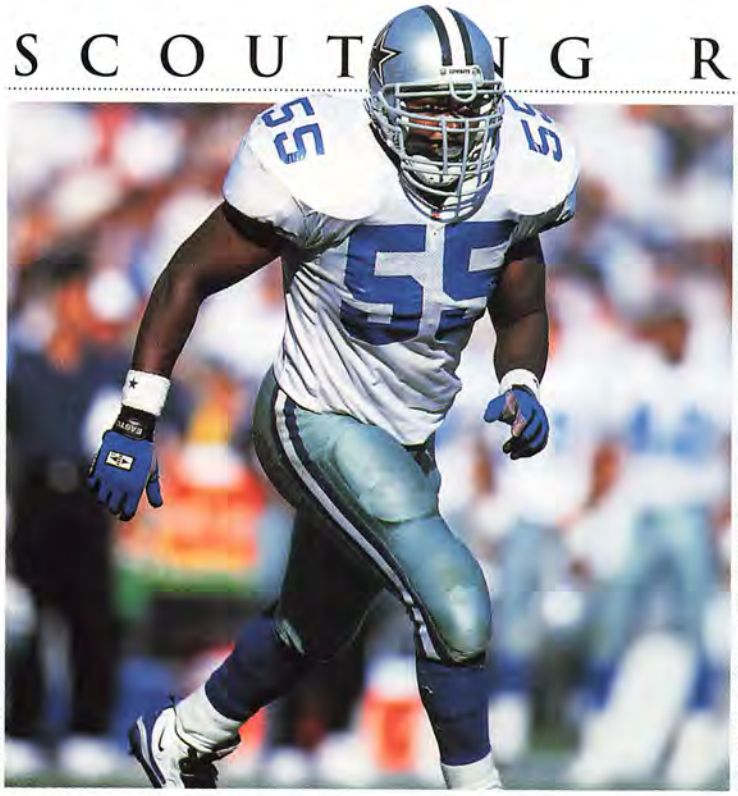

BOB ROSATO

Big Lift: *Linebacker Robert Jones missed four games, but returned to the lineup in time for Dallas's march through the NFC playoffs.*

Bruised and Battered, Dallas Defense Regains Swagger in Postseason

For much of this season, the Cowboys' defense has resembled an aging boxer: It has showed a lot of heart, but has been soft around the middle.

Dallas gave up 110.8 yards per game on the ground in 1995. Fifteen NFL teams fared better.

But sometime between the end of the regular season and their divisional playoff game against the Eagles, the Cowboys discovered what it takes to reach the Super Bowl again.

Perhaps it was the return to the lineup of defensive tackle Russell Maryland and middle linebacker Robert Jones. Maybe it was the emergence of youngsters who were forced into playing time by a number of injuries.

Or maybe it was just the need to feel appreciated, a theme echoed by defensive coordinator Dave Campo in the postseason. Campo feels this defensive unit (which finished ninth in the NFL in total defense at 315.3 yards per game) has not gotten the recognition it deserves for the Cowboys' success.

Whatever the reason, Dallas permitted only 74 rushing yards in the 30-11 rout of Philadephia (almost 59 yards below the Eagles' fourth-best NFL average), and just 48 yards to the Packers in the 38-27 victory in the NFC Championship Game.

Maryland (34 tackles), who was bothered by a sprained knee much of the season and missed three games, and Jones (100 tackles, 6 for losses), who sat out four games with an abdominal muscle strain, team with Pro Bowl defensive tackle Leon Lett (53 tackles, 6 for losses) to give Dallas a trio of solid run stuffers.

Defensive end Charles Haley (35 tackles) missed the final three games of the regular season and the NFC playoffs after having major back surgery (his status for today's game was uncertain), but Lett has done an excellent job at end in Haley's absence. Shante Carver also has subbed for Haley, making 21 tackles in limited action.

Outside linebackers Dixon Edwards (109 tackles) and Darrin Smith (65 stops despite sitting out the first six games) can fly to the ball, and safeties Darren Woodson (a team-high 144 tackles) and Brock Marion (114 stops) offer plenty of run support.

Linebacker Godfrey Myles and end Tony Tolbert each added 99 tackles.

This is a defense that was slowed by a rash of injuries—and perhaps suffered from a serious case of bruised ego—but now is beginning to feel healthy and, in the process, regaining its accustomed swagger.

KEY FACTS

- Almost any team that hopes to beat Dallas must run the football, so they can wear down the Cowboys' small but quick defense. Only once since 1993 has Dallas lost to an opponent (the 49ers last November) that did not rush for at least 100 yards.
- A strong ground attack is not a guarantee, however. Eight teams surpassed 100 rushing yards against Dallas in 1995, and only three of them won. The Giants ran for 244 yards and still lost.

TACKLES

	Solo	Assists	Total
Woodson, S	90	54	144
Marion, S	74	40	114
Edwards, LB	51	58	109
Jones, LB	57	43	100
Myles, LB	57	42	99
Tolbert, DE	50	49	99
D. Smith, LB	43	22	65
Hennings, DT	34	22	56
Lett, DT	29	24	53
Brown, CB	39	8	47
Haley, DE	30	5	35
Holmes, CB	24	10	34
Maryland, DT	22	12	34
Case, S	15	17	32
Sanders, CB	22	6	28

Unofficial; compiled by the Cowboys

RUSHING DEFENSE

RUSHING DEFENSE

Lloyd's of Pittsburgh: *Linebacker Greg Lloyd (95) et al. ensured that the Steelers finished second in the NFL against the run.*

JOHN H. REID III

Lloyd and Co. Plan to Drape a Black and Gold Curtain Around Cowboys

Of all the people working in America on Super Sunday, none will endure an afternoon of problem-solving as challenging as the Pittsburgh Steelers' rushing defense. None will be better equipped.

Steelers' defenders have been getting the same earful as the rest of us: Dallas's huge offensive line this, Emmitt Smith that, Moose Johnston blocking, blocking, blocking.

Fine.

Dallas's predominantly left-running attack will have to deal with right outside linebacker Greg Lloyd, one of pro football's best linebackers. He is the key figure in the Steelers' aggressive, intimidating 3-4 configuration, the NFL's second-best defense against the run in 1995.

Watch Lloyd. If the Cowboys slide left tackle Mark Tuinei down to block him, and left guard Nate Newton takes on Steelers right defensive end Ray Seals, right inside linebacker Chad Brown takes on Cowboys fullback Johnston.

But if Johnston goes after Lloyd, it's the 236-pound Brown (still dealing with a midseason ankle injury) against Newton at 303. That's a clear mismatch, so look for the Steelers to stunt, pitting Seals against Newton, and Brown against Tuinei. Seals has surprising speed, quickness, and great strength for a 280-pound player.

Nose tackle Joel Steed's ability to tie up Dallas center Derek Kennard will be crucial to Pittsburgh's run-stopping schemes.

Left outside linebacker Kevin Greene is known more as a pass rusher, but strength and quickness off the ball mark him as a fine run-stopper, able to string out plays.

Left end Brentson Buckner has improved after filling in at nose tackle during Steed's absence.

Left inside linebacker Levon Kirkland, at 255 pounds, is a package of size and speed whose forte is tracking down running backs from behind.

Kevin Henry, with good size and movement, backs up either defensive end. Inside linebacker Jerry Olsavsky may be undersized at 222 pounds, but his speed and heart make him a spirited sub.

Cornerbacks Carnell Lake and Willie Williams are excellent in run support. Big for a corner (210 pounds), Lake regularly flies to the ball and punishes the runner. Williams is an aggressive, sure tackler. Ditto free safety Darren Perry, and the only knock on hard-hitting strong safety Myron Bell is his lack of speed.

Intimidation is the name of Pittsburgh's run defense. Its leaders are Lloyd and Greene. Sounds like a law firm. *The Law* is more like it.

KEY FACTS

- Only the 49ers' defense was better against the run in 1995 than the Steelers'.
- The Steelers held 12 of their 16 opponents to 100 or fewer rushing yards. But they won three of the four games in which they allowed 100 or more rushing yards.
- For Pittsburgh, takeaways were more determinative of success than rushing yards allowed. The Steelers had just 5 takeaways in their five losses and 29 takeaways in their 11 victories.

TACKLES

	Solo	Assists	Total
Lloyd, LB	88	29	117
Kirkland, LB	58	30	88
W. Williams, CB	69	8	77
Lake, CB	63	10	73
Perry, S	61	9	70
K. Greene, LB	34	15	49
Buckner, DE	29	19	48
Seals, DE	34	14	48
A. Mays, CB	34	3	37
Olsavsky, LB	24	10	34
Bell, S	22	9	31
C. Brown, LB	20	10	30
Steed, DT	23	7	30
Henry, DE	12	3	15
Oldham, CB	10	5	15

Unofficial; compiled by the Steelers

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PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Mr. Accuracy: *Cowboys kicker Chris Boniol converted 27 of 28 field-goal attempts during the regular season, including 25 in a row.*

Dallas Special Teams Unspectacular, but May Be Ready to Explode

Dallas kicker Chris Boniol may not be a household name, but the second-year player from Louisiana Tech has become one of the steadiest kickers in the NFL.

Before missing his final field-goal attempt from 34 yards in the NFL Championship Game against Green Bay, Boniol had converted 29 consecutive kicks. During the regular season, Boniol converted 27 of 28 field-goal attempts, missing only a 20-yard attempt against the Minnesota Vikings in week 3. He finished second among NFC kickers, with 127 total points.

Look for the Cowboys to use Boniol only on field-goal attempts inside 50 yards. In his two seasons with Dallas, he has attempted (and missed) only one kick from more than 50 yards.

The Cowboys' punting duties are adequately handled by John Jett, who punted only 53 times during the regular season (fewest in the NFC) and averaged 40.9 yards. Usually excellent at putting his punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line, Jett was below average this season, dropping only 17 of his 53 punts (32 percent) inside the 20.

Jett also suffered his first career blocked punt in the NFC title game. Pittsburgh might come after Jett, because he has a tendency to be slow getting off his punts.

If Dallas is to get a big play from its special teams, it likely will come from Deion Sanders or Kevin Williams.

Sanders, who took over the punt-return duties from Williams in the postseason, is extremely dangerous any time he touches the ball. During his seven-year career, Sanders has returned 2 punts and 3 kickoffs for touchdowns.

Williams, who will handle the kickoff returns, is very elusive and has breakaway speed. He finished sixth in the NFC this season with a 22.6-yard average.

Don't be surprised if the Cowboys try a little trickery when returning either punts or kickoffs. During the regular season, Sanders took a handoff from Williams on a punt return reverse and ran 43 yards.

The Cowboys' coverage units are led by special teams captain Bill Bates. In his thirteenth season, Bates continues to excel on the Cowboys' kick units. He had 25 special-teams tackles this season. Reserve running back David Lang (team-leading 30 tackles) and reserve linebacker Jim Schwantz (23) are among the other standouts.

KEY FACTS

- Chris Boniol's only field-goal miss was a 20-yard kick that went wide right against the Vikings in week 3. He made 25 consecutive field goals after that miss.
- Failures by Dallas's special teams played an important part in the club's two Super Bowl losses to Pittsburgh. A punt block led to a key safety in Dallas's 21-17 loss in Super Bowl X, and a fumble on a kickoff return led to the Steelers' final touchdown in the Cowboys' 35-31 loss in XIII.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Jett	53	2,166	40.9	17	6	58	0	34.5
Boniol	2	77	38.5	2	0	56	0	38.5

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
K. Williams	18	15	166	9.2	30	0
Holmes	4	1	35	8.8	13	0
Sanders	1	1	54	54.0	43	0

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
K. Williams	49	1,108	22.6	43	0
Holmes	5	134	26.8	46	0
Marion	1	16	16.0	16	0
Sanders	1	15	15.0	15	0
Watkins	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
Boniol	0/0	11/12	13/13	3/3	0/0	27/28	46/48	127

SPECIAL TEAMS

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Nooorrrmmm!!: *Fourteen-year veteran Norm Johnson signed with the Steelers in August and led the AFC in scoring with 141 points.*

With Veteran Kicking and New Return Specialists, the Steelers Are Special

Despite free-agent defections and injury, the Steelers' special teams are one of the best in the NFL.

In March, Pittsburgh signed free agent Rohn Stark, who had punted for the Colts the previous 13 seasons. No punter has been selected as high as Stark since he was the thirty-fourth pick of the 1982 draft. His career average of 43.8 yards per punt entering this season ranked as the fifth-best average in NFL history.

The hang time on Stark's punts have not been particularly long, which could be a concern with Dallas using Deion Sanders as its return man, but he had only 22 punts returned. The cover squad, led by Donta Jones, Lethon Flowers and Jason Gildon, ranked near the league average by allowing 8.5 yards per return.

In July, the team lost its all-time leading scorer, kicker Gary Anderson, to free agency, but it did not panic, signing free-agent Norm Johnson. Critics thought Johnson, who had kicked in domed stadiums in Seattle and Atlanta his first 13 seasons, would have trouble kicking outdoors. All he did was lead NFL kickers in scoring.

KEY FACTS

- Norm Johnson has 19 career field goals of 50 or more yards, the fourth-highest total in league history. He has converted 85.6 percent of his field-goal attempts since 1991.
- Pittsburgh's kickoff-coverage unit, which surrendered 22.5 yards per return and 2 scores in 1994, was the NFL's best in 1995 (17.5 yards, no touchdowns).
- Just 22 of Rohn Stark's 59 punts were returned, which tied Dallas's John Jett for the fewest in the NFL.

Johnson should be comfortable on the grass field at Tempe. He has made 18 consecutive field goals (and 28 of his last 29) on grass.

Kendall Gammon is one of the few constants on the special teams, handling the punt- and kick-snapping duties since 1992. Stark serves as the holder on Johnson's kicks.

With Johnson lacking the leg strength he once had, the Steelers rely on their stellar kickoff unit (the NFL's best in 1995) to get downfield and pin the opponents. Johnson's kickoffs land only around the 10-yard line. He also carelessly kicked two squib-kicks out of bounds in the playoffs, allowing the opposition to start at the 40-yard line.

The final restructuring of the special teams came about because of the season-ending injury to return specialist Rod Woodson in the 1995 opener. Ernie Mills became the main kickoff returner. The Steelers' average starting point after kickoffs was their 30 yard-line, tied for sixth best in the NFL. Andre Hastings was given the punt-return duties and performed well, including a 72-yard return for a touchdown.

And, yes, watch for Kordell Stewart. He punted out of an offensive formation in the playoffs and could be used if a fake punt is needed.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punting	No.	Yards	Avg.	In 20	TB	Long	Blocked	Net Avg.
Stark	59	2,368	40.1	20	11	64	0	33.3

Punt Returns	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Hastings	48	8	474	9.9	72*t*	1

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Mills	54	1,306	24.2	57	0
McAfee	5	56	11.2	25	0
Pegram	4	85	21.3	28	0
Bruener	2	19	9.5	10	0
C. Johnson	2	47	23.5	40	0
Gibson	1	10	10.0	10	0
T. Greene	1	7	7.0	7	0

Kicking	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	FG/Att.	PAT/Att.	Pts
N. Johnson	1/1	10/10	14/16	8/13	1/1	34/41	39/39	141

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COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Barry Switzer
Cowboys owner Jerry Jones didn't have to venture far as he began looking for someone to replace head coach Jimmy Johnson, who had resigned after guiding Dallas to consecutive Super Bowl victories in 1992-93.

Jones quickly decided that Switzer, who had been an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas when Jones played there in the early 1960s and who had gained national acclaim as the head coach of Oklahoma Sooners from 1973-1988, was the right man for the job.

In his first year as head coach, Switzer led the Cowboys to a 12-4 regular-season record and their third consecutive appearance in the NFC Championship Game. This year, Dallas returned to the Super Bowl after finishing with the best record in the NFC (12-4) and its fourth successive NFC East title.

Switzer's .837 winning percentage during his 16 seasons at Oklahoma is the fourth best mark among coaches in NCAA history. The Sooners won three national championships and 12 Big Eight Conference titles during his tenure.

The Cowboys' assistant coaches:

Hubbard Alexander, wide receivers; born February 14, 1939, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, lives in Coppell, Texas. Center Tennessee State 1958-1961. No pro playing experience. College coach: Tennessee State 1962-63, Vanderbilt 1974-78, Miami 1979-1988. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1989.

Joe Avezzano, special teams; born November 17, 1943, Yonkers, New York, lives in Coppell, Texas. Guard Florida State 1961-65. Pro center Boston Patriots 1966. College coach: Florida State 1968, Iowa State 1969-1972, Pittsburgh 1973-76, Tennessee 1977-79, Oregon State 1980-84 (head coach), Texas 1985-88. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1990.

Craig Boller, defensive assistant; born January 29, 1948, Belmond, Iowa, lives in Dallas. Defensive tackle Iowa State 1966-1970. No pro playing experience. College coach: William Penn College 1974-76 (head coach 1976), Tennessee 1977, Memphis State 1978-79, Oregon State 1980-86, Iowa State 1987-1994. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1995.

Joe Brodsky, running backs; born June 9, 1934, Miami, Florida, lives in Coppell, Texas. Fullback-linebacker Florida 1953-56. No pro playing experience. College coach: Miami 1978-1988. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1989.

Dave Campo, defensive coordinator; born July 18, 1947, New London, Connecticut, lives in Coppell, Texas. Defensive back Central Connecticut State 1967-1970. No pro playing experience. College coach: Central Connecticut State 1971-72, Albany State 1973, Bridgeport 1974, Pittsburgh 1975, Washington State 1976, Boise State 1977-79, Oregon State 1980, Weber State 1981-82, Iowa State 1983, Syracuse 1984-86, Miami 1987-88. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1989.

Jim Eddy, linebackers; born May 2, 1939, Checotah, Oklahoma, lives in Carrollton, Texas. Defensive back-running back New Mexico State 1956-59. No pro playing experience. College coach: New Mexico State 1965-1970, Texas El-Paso 1971-72, Houston 1987-89. Pro coach: Saskatchewan Rough Riders (CFL) 1974-78 (head coach 1977-78), Hamilton Tiger Cats (CFL) 1979-1980, Montreal Alouettes (CFL) 1981 (head coach), Toronto Argonauts (CFL) 1982-83, Houston Gamblers (USFL) 1984-85, Houston Oilers 1990-92, joined Cowboys in 1993.

Robert Ford, tight ends; born June 21, 1951, Belton, Texas, lives in Coppell, Texas. Wide receiver Houston 1970-72. No pro playing experience. College coach: Western Illinois 1974-76, New Mexico 1977-79, Oregon State 1980-81, Mississippi State 1982-83, Kansas 1986, Texas Tech 1987-88, Texas A&M 1989-1990. Pro coach: Houston Gamblers (USFL) 1985, joined Cowboys in 1991.

Steve Hoffman, kickers-research and development; born September 8, 1958, Camden, New Jersey, lives in Coppell, Texas. Quarterback-running back-wide receiver Dickinson College 1979-1982. Pro punter Washington Federals (USFL) 1983. College coach: Miami 1985-87. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1989.

Hudson Houck, offensive line; born January 7, 1943, Los Angeles, California, lives in Irving, Texas. Center Southern California 1962-64. No pro playing experience. College coach: Southern California 1970-72, 1976-1982, Stanford 1973-75. Pro coach: Los Angeles Rams 1983-1991, Seattle Seahawks 1992, joined Cowboys in 1993.

Mike Woicik, strength and conditioning; born September 26, 1956, Westwood, Massachusetts, lives in Coppell, Texas. Boston College 1974-78. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: Springfield 1978-1980, Syracuse 1980-89. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1990.

Ernie Zampese, offensive coordinator; born March 12, 1936, Santa Barbara, California, lives in Mission Viejo, California. Halfback Southern California 1956-58. No pro playing experience. College coach: Hancock, California, Junior College. 1962-65, Cal Poly-SLO 1966, San Diego State 1967-75. Pro coach: San Diego Chargers 1976, 1979-1986, New York Jets 1977-78 (scout), Los Angeles Rams 1987-1993, joined Cowboys in 1994.

Mike Zimmer, defensive backs; born June 5, 1956, Peoria, Illinois, lives in Irving, Texas. Quarterback-linebacker Illinois State 1974-76. No pro playing experience. College coach: Missouri 1979-1980, Weber State 1981-88, Washington State 1989-93. Pro coach: Joined Cowboys in 1994.

HOW COWBOYS WERE BUILT

1983 • 12-5 *2nd NFC East*	**Free Agents:** S Bill Bates, T Mark Tuinei
1986 • 7-9 *3rd NFC East*	**Free Agents:** G Nate Newton
1988 • 3-13 *5th NFC East*	**Draft:** WR Michael Irvin (1), DT Chad Hennings (11)
1989 • 1-15 *5th NFC East*	**Draft:** QB Troy Aikman (1), RB Daryl Johnston (2), DE Tony Tolbert (4)
1990 • 7-9 *4th NFC East*	**Draft:** RB Emmitt Smith (1), **Trade:** G-C Dale Hellestrae (from L.A. Raiders), **Free Agent:** TE Jay Novacek
1991 • 12-6 *2nd NFC East*	**Draft:** DT Russell Maryland (1A), LB Dixon Edwards (2), LB Godfrey Myles (3A), T Erik Williams (3C), DL Leon Lett (7), CB Larry Brown (12)
1992 • 16-3 *Super Bowl XXVII Champions*	**Draft:** LB Robert Jones (1B), S Darren Woodson (2B) **Trade:** DE Charles Haley (from San Francisco)
1993 • 15-4 *Super Bowl XXVIII Champions*	**Draft:** WR Kevin Williams (2A), LB Darrin Smith (2B), G-T Ron Stone (4B), S Brock Marion (7) **Free Agent:** QB Jason Garrett, P John Jett
1994 • 13-5 *1st NFC East*	**Draft:** DE Shante Carver (1), G-T Larry Allen (2), T George Hegamin (3) **Trade:** LB Jim Schwantz (from Chicago) **Free Agent:** K Chris Boniol, WR Cory Fleming, DL Hurvin McCormack
1995 • 14-4 *NFC Champions*	**Draft:** RB Sherman Williams (2A), TE Kendell Watkins (2B), S Charlie Williams (3), DT Darren Benson (SD3), TE Eric Bjornson (4A), CB Alundis Brice (4B), WR Edward Hervey (5A), DE Oscar Sturgis (7) **Free Agent:** CB Robert Bailey, G-DT Michael Batiste, S Greg Briggs, S Scott Case, WR Billy Davis, WR Oronde Gadsden, LB Darryl Hardy, C-G Derek Kennard, RB David Lang, RB Dominique Ross, CB-WR Deion Sanders, QB Wade Wilson
	Draft (29) Trade(3) Free Agents (21)

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Bill Cowher
Under their fourth-year head coach, the Steelers have built a defense reminiscent of the "Steel Curtain" of the '70s. Cowher, who took over from Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Chuck Noll before the 1992 season, saw his Steelers rank second in the NFL in 1994 and third in 1995 in total defense.

The 1995 Steelers, in the postseason for the fourth consecutive year under Cowher, also boast a vastly improved passing game to bolster their perennially strong rushing attack. Cowher led the Steelers to a 12-4 record and their second consecutive AFC Central Division Championship (and twelfth ever) this season.

Cowher, who was named the *AP* NFL coach of the year in 1992, joined the Steelers after seven years as an NFL assistant coach. He served under Marty Schottenheimer in both Cleveland (1985-88) and Kansas City (1989-1991). Cowher played six seasons (1979-1984) as a linebacker with Philadelphia and Cleveland.

Born (May 8, 1957) and raised in Pittsburgh, Cowher played linebacker at North Carolina State University and earned a bachelor's degree in education. He and his wife Kaye, who played basketball at North Carolina State, have three daughters. The Steelers' assistant coaches:

Bobby April, Jr., special teams; born April 15, 1953, New Orleans, Louisiana, lives in Pittsburgh. Defensive end/linebacker Nicholls State 1972-75. No pro playing experience. College coach: Tulane 1979, Arizona 1980-86, Southern California 1987-1990. Pro coach: Atlanta Falcons 1991-93, joined Steelers in 1994.

Ron Erhardt, offensive coordinator; born February 27, 1931, Mandan, North Dakota, lives in Pittsburgh. Quarterback Jamestown (North Dakota) College 1951-54. No pro playing experience. College coach: North Dakota State 1963-1972 (head coach 1966-1972). Pro coach: New England Patriots 1973-1981 (head coach 1979-1981), New York Giants 1982-1991, joined Steelers in 1992.

Chet Fuhrman, conditioning coordinator; born August 4, 1951, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, lives in Pittsburgh. No college or pro playing experience. College coach: Penn State 1979-1980, 1982-1991, Weber State 1981. Pro coach: Joined Steelers in 1992.

Chan Gailey, wide receivers; born January 5, 1952, Gainesville, Georgia, lives in Pittsburgh. Quarterback Florida 1970-73. No pro playing experience. College coach: Troy State 1976-78, 1983-84, Air Force 1979-1982, Samford (head coach) 1992. Pro coach: Denver Broncos 1985-1990, Birmingham Fire (WL) 1991-92, joined Steelers in 1994.

Dick Hoak, running backs; born December 8, 1939, Jeannette, Pennsylvania, lives in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Halfback-quarterback Penn State 1958-1960. Pro running back Pittsburgh Steelers 1961-1970. Pro coach: Joined Steelers in 1972.

Pat Hodgson, tight ends; born January 30, 1944, Columbus, Georgia, lives in Pittsburgh. Tight end Georgia 1963-65. Pro tight end Washington Redskins 1966,

GROWING,

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Minnesota Vikings 1967. College coach: Georgia 1968-1970, 1972-77, Florida State 1971, Texas Tech 1978. Pro coach: San Diego Chargers 1978, New York Giants 1979-1987, joined Steelers in 1992.

Dick LeBeau, defensive coordinator; born September 9, 1937, London, Ohio, lives in Pittsburgh. Defensive back-offensive back Ohio State 1954-57. Pro cornerback Detroit Lions 1959-1972. Pro coach: Philadelphia Eagles 1973-75, Green Bay Packers 1976-79, Cincinnati Bengals 1980-1991, joined Steelers in 1992.

Marvin Lewis, linebackers; born September 23, 1958, McDonald, Pennsylvania, lives in Pittsburgh. Linebacker Idaho State 1977-1980. No pro playing experience. College coach: Idaho State 1981-84, Long Beach State 1985-86, New Mexico 1987-89, Pittsburgh 1990-91. Pro coach: Joined Steelers in 1992.

Tim Lewis, defensive backs; born December 18, 1961, Quakertown, Pennsylvania, lives in Pittsburgh. Defensive back Pittsburgh 1979-1982. Pro cornerback Green Bay Packers 1983-86. College coach: Texas A&M 1987-88, Southern Methodist 1989-1992, Pittsburgh 1993-94. Pro coach: Joined Steelers in 1995.

John Mitchell, defensive line; born October 14, 1951, Mobile, Alabama, lives in Pittsburgh. Defensive end Eastern Arizona J.C. 1969-1970, Alabama 1971-72. No pro playing experience. College coach: Alabama 1973-76, Arkansas 1977-1982, Temple 1986, Louisiana State 1987-1990. Pro coach: Birmingham Stallions (USFL) 1983-85, Cleveland Browns 1991-1993, joined Steelers in 1994.

Kent Stephenson, offensive line; born February 4, 1942, Anita, Iowa, lives in Pittsburgh. Guard-nose tackle Northern Iowa 1962-64. No pro playing experience. College coach: Wayne State 1965-68, North Dakota 1969-1971, Southern Methodist 1972-73, Iowa 1974-76, Oklahoma State 1977-78, Kansas 1979-1982. Pro coach: Michigan Panthers (USFL) 1983-84, Seattle Seahawks 1985-1991, joined Steelers in 1992.

HOW STEELERS WERE BUILT

1987 • 8-7 *3rd AFC Central*	**Draft:** CB Rod Woodson (1), LB Greg Lloyd (6B)
1988 • 5-11 *4th AFC Central*	**Draft:** C Dermontti Dawson (2), T John Jackson (10)
1989 • 10-8 *3rd AFC Central*	**Draft:** CB Carnell Lake (2)
1990 • 9-7 *3rd AFC Central*	**Draft:** QB Neil O'Donnell (3A), G-T Justin Strzelczyk (11)
1991 • 7-9 *2nd AFC Central*	**Draft:** WR Ernie Mills (3), C-G Ariel Solomon (10)
1992 • 11-6 *1st AFC Central*	**Draft:** T Leon Searcy (1), LB Levon Kirkland (2), NT Joel Steed (3), S Darren Perry (8A), C Kendall Gammon (11) **Free Agent:** WR Yancey Thigpen
1993 • 9-8 *2nd AFC Central*	**Draft:** CB Deon Figures (1), LB Chad Brown (2), WR Andre Hastings (3), DE Kevin Henry (4), CB Willie Williams (6) **Free Agent:** RB Steve Avery, LB Kevin Greene, QB Mike Tomczak
1994 • 13-5 *1st AFC Central*	**Draft:** DE Brentson Buckner (2), LB Jason Gildon (3A), RB Bam Morris (3B), DE Taase Faumui (4), S Myron Bell (5A), QB Jim Miller (6A), LB Eric Ravotti (6B) **Free Agent:** TE Jonathan Hayes, RB Fred McAfee, LB Jerry Olsavsky, DE Ray Seals, RB John L. Williams
1995 • 13-5 *AFC Champions*	**Draft:** TE Mark Bruener (1), QB/WR Kordell Stewart (2), G Brenden Stai (3), DT Oliver Gibson (4A), LB Donta Jones (4B), S Lethon Flowers (5A) **Free Agent:** CB Randy Fuller, WR Corey Holliday, DT Bill Johnson, K Norm Johnson, RB Tim Lester, CB Alvoid Mays, G Tom Newberry, CB Chris Oldham, T James Parrish, RB Erric Pegram, P Rohn Stark **Trade:** TE Tracy Greene (from Kansas City)
	Draft (32) Trade(1) Free Agents (20)

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Joe Avezzano	Assistant Coach
Craig Boller	Assistant Coach
Joe Brodsky	Assistant Coach
Dave Campo	Assistant Coach
Jim Eddy	Assistant Coach
Robert Ford	Assistant Coach
Steve Hoffman	Assistant Coach
Hudson Houck	Assistant Coach
Mike Woicik	Assistant Coach
Ernie Zampese	Assistant Coach
Mike Zimmer	Assistant Coach
CLUB PERSONNEL	
Jerry Jones	President and General Manager
Stephen Jones	Executive Vice President/Director of Player Personnel
Charlotte Anderson	Vice President/Director of Marketing and Special Events
Jerry Jones, Jr.	Vice President/Legal Operations
George Hays	Vice President of Marketing
Mike McCoy	Vice President
Larry Lacewell	Director of College and Pro Scouting
Debbie Ross	Director of Human Resources
Bruce Mays	Director of Operations
Robert Newhouse	Director of Procurement
Rich Dalrymple	Director of Public Relations
Carol Padgett	Director of Ticket Operations
Kevin O'Neill	Head Trainer
Mike McCord	Equipment Manager
Joel Finglass	Director of Sales and Promotion
Robert Nunez	Treasurer
Kelli McGonagill	Director/Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders
Marge Anderson	Administrative Assistant/Coaching Staff
Dr. John Baker	Team Physician
Chuck Beck	Sales
Doreen Bice	Marketing and Special Events Coordinator
Ann Bihari	Ticket Office
Robert Blackwell	Video Director
Bucky Buchanan	Assistant Equipment Manager
Ulysses Byas	Training Intern
Tom Ciskowski	Scout
Travis Clark	Sales
Kathy Coleman	Mail Room/Supplies
Tandra Cromer	Sales Assistant
Michael Crouch	Ticket Office
Emily Cruz	Public Relations Assistant/Community Relations Director
Brett Daniels	Assistant Director of Public Relations
Joy Dodson	Ticket Office
Dana Elliott	Sales Assistant
Jim Engstrom	Sales
Andy Fineberg	Video Assistant
Steve Forgey	Building Engineer
Laura Fryar	Administrative Assistant
Jim Garrett	Scout
Scott Gilmore	Sales
Craig Glieber	Assistant Director of Operations
Scott Goldstein	Sales
Barbara Goodman	Administrative Assistant/Coaching Staff
Terry Green	Security
Bob Haas	Training Intern
Chris Hall	Scouting Assistant
Wendy Harris	Switchboard Operator
John Hickman	Sales and Marketing Coordinator
Kevin Holtz	Legal Assistant
Doug Hood	Public Relations Assistant
Charlie Humbert	Sales
Jan Hux	Marketing Assistant
Louis Jackson	Equipment Assistant
Pamela Jenkins	Cheerleading Assistant
Walter Juliff	Assistant Director of College and Pro Scouting
Tina Kalina	Cheerleading Coordinator
Jesse Leija	Mail Room Assistant
Marylyn Love	Assistant to the General Manager
Bobby Marks	Scout
Jim Maurer	Assistant Trainer
Tamara Fulton McDonnell	Sales
Connie Medina	Administrative Assistant
Steve Obert	Sales
Andrea Payne	Ticket Office
Derek Serpa	Maintenance Assistant
Grady Siske	Sales
Susan Skaggs	Director of Civic Affairs
Melissa Stodghill	Ticket Office
Judy Trammell	Cheerleading Choreographer
Terri Van Hooser	Assistant Controller
Dr. Robert Vandermeer	Team Physician
Al Walker	Maintenance Assistant
Rhonda Worthey	Assistant Accounting Manager
Teresa Wright	Ticket Office
Walt Yowarsky	Scout
Dr. J.R. Zamorano	Team Physician

Cowboys Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	223	11/21/66	7	UCLA
73	Allen, Larry	G-T	6-3	326	11/27/71	2	Sonoma State
23	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-9	176	9/3/68	5	Miami
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	211	6/6/61	13	Tennessee
68	Batiste, Michael	G-DT	6-3	305	12/24/70	1	Tulane
91	Benson, Darren	DT	6-7	308	8/25/74	R	Trinity Valley C.C.
86	Bjornson, Eric	TE	6-4	236	12/15/71	R	Washington
18	Boniol, Chris	K	5-11	167	12/9/71	2	Louisiana Tech
29	Brice, Alundis	CB	5-10	178	5/1/70	R	Mississippi
43	Briggs, Greg	S	6-3	212	10/1/68	2	Texas Southern
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	186	11/30/69	5	Texas Christian
96	Carver, Shante	DE	6-5	253	2/12/71	2	Arizona State
25	Case, Scott	S	6-1	188	5/17/62	12	Oklahoma
87	Davis, Billy	WR	6-1	197	7/6/72	R	Pittsburgh
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	225	3/25/68	5	Michigan State
82	Fleming, Cory	WR	6-1	207	3/19/71	2	Tennessee
17	Garrett, Jason	QB	6-2	195	3/28/66	3	Princeton
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	255	1/6/64	10	James Madison
54	Hardy, Darryl	LB	6-2	230	11/22/68	1	Tennessee
69	Hegamin, George	T	6-7	331	2/14/73	2	North Carolina State
70	Hellestrae, Dale	G-C	6-5	286	7/11/62	11	Southern Methodist
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	295	10/20/65	4	Air Force
81	Hervey, Edward	WR	6-3	189	5/4/73	R	Southern California
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	207	3/5/66	8	Miami
19	Jett, John	P	6-0	199	11/11/68	3	East Carolina
48	Johnston, Daryl	RB	6-2	242	2/10/66	7	Syracuse
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	244	9/27/69	4	East Carolina
60	Kennard, Derek	C-G	6-3	333	9/9/62	10	Nevada
38	Lang, David	RB	5-11	210	3/28/68	5	Northern Arizona
78	Lett, Leon	DL	6-6	291	10/12/68	5	Emporia State
31	Marion, Brock	S	5-11	193	6/11/70	3	Nevada
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	282	3/22/69	5	Miami
99	McCormack, Hurvin	DL	6-5	278	4/6/72	2	Indiana
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	240	9/22/68	5	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	320	12/20/61	10	Florida A&M
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	234	10/24/62	11	Wyoming
36	Ross, Dominique	RB	6-0	203	1/12/72	R	Valdosta State
21	Sanders, Deion	CB-WR	6-1	190	8/9/67	7	Florida State
52	Schwantz, Jim	LB	6-2	240	1/23/70	2	Purdue
59	Smith, Darrin	LB	6-1	230	4/15/70	3	Miami
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	5/15/69	6	Florida
65	Stone, Ron	G-T	6-5	310	7/20/71	3	Boston College
90	Sturgis, Oscar	DE	6-5	278	1/12/71	R	North Carolina
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	263	12/29/67	7	Texas-El Paso
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	314	3/31/60	13	Hawaii
83	Watkins, Kendell	TE	6-1	282	3/8/73	R	Mississippi State
42	Williams, Charlie	S	6-0	189	2/2/72	R	Bowling Green
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	324	9/7/68	5	Central State, Ohio
85	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-9	194	1/25/71	3	Miami
20	Williams, Sherman	RB	5-8	191	8/13/73	R	Alabama
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	206	2/1/59	15	East Texas State
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	216	4/25/69	4	Arizona State

DEPTH CHART

Offense								
WR	—	85	Kevin Williams	21	Deion Sanders	81	Edward Hervey	
LT	—	71	Mark Tuinei	65	Ron Stone	69	George Hegamin	
LG	—	61	Nate Newton	65	Ron Stone	68	Michael Batiste	
C	—	60	Derek Kennard	70	Dale Hellestrae	68	Michael Batiste	
RG	—	73	Larry Allen	65	Ron Stone	68	Michael Batiste	
RT	—	79	Erik Williams	65	Ron Stone	69	George Hegamin	
TE	—	84	Jay Novacek	83	Kendell Watkins	86	Eric Bjornson	
WR	—	88	Michael Irvin	82	Cory Fleming	87	Billy Davis	
QB	—	8	Troy Aikman	11	Wade Wilson	17	Jason Garrett	
RB	—	22	Emmitt Smith	20	Sherman Williams	36	Dominique Ross	
RB	—	48	Daryl Johnston	38	David Lang			
Defense								
LE	—	92	Tony Tolbert	99	Hurvin McCormack	90	Oscar Sturgis	
LT	—	67	Russell Maryland	95	Chad Hennings	91	Darren Benson	
RT	—	78	Leon Lett	95	Chad Hennings	68	Michael Batiste	
RE	—	96	Shante Carver	78	Leon Lett	94	Charles Haley (inj.)	
LLB	—	58	Dixon Edwards	98	Godfrey Myles	54	Darryl Hardy	
MLB	—	55	Robert Jones	98	Godfrey Myles	52	Jim Schwantz	
RLB	—	59	Darrin Smith	98	Godfrey Myles	52	Jim Schwantz	
LCB	—	21	Deion Sanders	23	Robert Bailey			
RCB	—	24	Larry Brown	29	Alundis Brice			
SS	—	28	Darren Woodson	25	Scott Case	40	Bill Bates	
FS	—	31	Brock Marion	42	Charlie Williams	43	Greg Briggs	
Specialists								
P	—	19	John Jett	18	Chris Boniol			
K	—	18	Chris Boniol					
H	—	84	Jay Novacek	19	John Jett	86	Eric Bjornson	
PR	—	85	Kevin Williams	21	Deion Sanders			
KR	—	85	Kevin Williams	31	Brock Marion	21	Deion Sanders	
PC	—	70	Dale Hellestrae	90	Oscar Sturgis	48	Daryl Johnston	
KC	—	70	Dale Hellestrae	48	Daryl Johnston			

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When designing the body structure for the Aurora,™ our goal was to create one as rigid as any of the top luxury performance sedans. After all, structural integrity influences everything from ride quality and handling precision to occupant protection and the elimination of squeaks and rattles. It's what gives a driver the ethereal feeling of "I'm-in-charge-I-feel-secure" when motoring down the road. Well, to that end, we more than succeeded. Of course you can still spend tens of thousands more for an import with similar qualities. But the way we see it, that's a hard price to pay. For more information, call 1-800-718-7778. Demand better.

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2,857 athletes trudge through 216 two-a-days to fill 1,350 roster spots on 30 NFL teams that compete for the right to play 60 minutes of football so you have something entertaining to watch while

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STARTING LINEUPS

COWBOYS OFFENSE

85	Kevin Williams	WR
71	Mark Tuinei	LT
61	Nate Newton	LG
60	Derek Kennard	C
73	Larry Allen	RG
79	Erik Williams	RT
84	Jay Novacek	TE
88	Michael Irvin	WR
8	Troy Aikman	QB
22	Emmitt Smith	RB
48	Daryl Johnston	RB

COWBOYS DEFENSE

92	Tony Tolbert	LE
67	Russell Maryland	LT
78	Leon Lett	RT
96	Shante Carver	RE
58	Dixon Edwards	LLB
55	Robert Jones	MLB
59	Darrin Smith	RLB
21	Deion Sanders	LCB
24	Larry Brown	RCB
28	Darren Woodson	SS
31	Brock Marion	FS

COWBOYS NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
8	Troy Aikman	QB
11	Wade Wilson	QB
17	Jason Garrett	QB
18	Chris Boniol	K
19	John Jett	P
20	Sherman Williams	RB
21	Deion Sanders	CB-WR
22	Emmitt Smith	RB
23	Robert Bailey	CB
24	Larry Brown	CB
25	Scott Case	S
28	Darren Woodson	S
29	Alundis Brice	CB
31	Brock Marion	S
36	Dominique Ross	RB
38	David Lang	RB
40	Bill Bates	S
42	Charlie Williams	S
43	Greg Briggs	S
48	Daryl Johnston	RB
52	Jim Schwantz	LB
54	Darryl Hardy	LB
55	Robert Jones	LB
58	Dixon Edwards	LB
59	Darrin Smith	LB
60	Derek Kennard	C-G
61	Nate Newton	G
65	Ron Stone	G-T
67	Russell Maryland	DT
68	Michael Batiste	G-DT
69	George Hegamin	T
70	Dale Hellestrae	G-C
71	Mark Tuinei	T
73	Larry Allen	G-T
78	Leon Lett	DL
79	Erik Williams	T
81	Edward Hervey	WR
82	Cory Fleming	WR
83	Kendell Watkins	TE
84	Jay Novacek	TE
85	Kevin Williams	WR
86	Eric Bjornson	TE
87	Billy Davis	WR
88	Michael Irvin	WR
90	Oscar Sturgis	DE
91	Darren Benson	DT
92	Tony Tolbert	DE
94	Charles Haley	DE
95	Chad Hennings	DT
96	Shante Carver	DE
98	Godfrey Myles	LB
99	Hurvin McCormack	DL

STEELERS OFFENSE

82	Yancey Thigpen	WR
65	John Jackson	LT
66	Tom Newberry	LG
63	Dermontti Dawson	C
68	Brenden Stai	RG
72	Leon Searcy	RT
87	Mark Bruener	TE
89	Ernie Mills	WR
14	Neil O'Donnell	QB
20	Erric Pegram	RB
22	John L. Williams	RB

STEELERS DEFENSE

96	Brentson Buckner	LE
93	Joel Steed	LT
97	Ray Seals	RE
91	Kevin Greene	LOLB
99	Levon Kirkland	LILB
94	Chad Brown	RILB
95	Greg Lloyd	ROLB
27	Willie Williams	LCB
37	Carnell Lake	RCB
40	Myron Bell	SS
39	Darren Perry	FS

STEELERS NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
3	Rohn Stark	P
9	Norm Johnson	K
10	Kordell Stewart	QB/WR
14	Neil O'Donnell	QB
16	Jim Miller	QB
18	Mike Tomczak	QB
20	Erric Pegram	RB
21	Deon Figures	CB
22	John L. Williams	RB
24	Chris Oldham	CB
25	Fred McAfee	RB
26	Rod Woodson	CB
27	Willie Williams	CB
28	Alvoid Mays	CB
29	Randy Fuller	CB
33	Byron (Bam) Morris	RB
34	Tim Lester	RB
37	Carnell Lake	CB
39	Darren Perry	S
40	Myron Bell	S
41	Lethon Flowers	S
43	Steve Avery	RB
54	Donta Jones	LB
55	Jerry Olsavsky	LB
57	Eric Ravotti	LB
60	Kendall Gammon	C
63	Dermontti Dawson	C
65	John Jackson	T
66	Tom Newberry	G
68	Brenden Stai	G
69	Ariel Solomon	C-G
72	Leon Searcy	T
73	Justin Strzelczyk	G-T
76	Kevin Henry	DE
78	Taase Faumui	DE
79	James Parrish	T
82	Yancey Thigpen	WR
83	Corey Holliday	WR
84	Tracy Greene	TE
85	Jonathan Hayes	TE
87	Mark Bruener	TE
88	Andre Hastings	WR
89	Ernie Mills	WR
90	Bill Johnson	DT
91	Kevin Greene	LB
92	Jason Gildon	LB
93	Joel Steed	NT
94	Chad Brown	LB
95	Greg Lloyd	LB
96	Brentson Buckner	DE
97	Ray Seals	DE
98	Oliver Gibson	DT
99	Levon Kirkland	LB

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Club Directory

Bill Cowher	Head Coach
Bobby April	Assistant Coach
Ron Erhardt	Assistant Coach
Chet Fuhrman	Assistant Coach
Chan Gailey	Assistant Coach
Dick Hoak	Assistant Coach
Pat Hodgson	Assistant Coach
Dick LeBeau	Assistant Coach
Marvin Lewis	Assistant Coach
Tim Lewis	Assistant Coach
John Mitchell	Assistant Coach
Kent Stephenson	Assistant Coach
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS	
Tom Donahoe	Director of Football Operations
Tom Modrak	College Personnel Coordinator
Charles Bailey	Pro Personnel Coordinator
Mark Gorscak	BLESTO College Scout
Phil Kreidler	College Scout
Bob Lane	College Scout
Max McCartney	College Scout
ADMINISTRATION	
Daniel M. Rooney	President
John R. McGinley	Vice President
Arthur J. Rooney, Jr.	Vice President
Arthur J. Rooney II	Secretary and Counsel
Charles H. Noll	Administration Advisor
CLUB PERSONNEL	
Joe Gordon	Director of Communications
Rob Boulware	Media Relations Coordinator
Ron Miller	Media Relations Assistant/Community Relations
Lynne Balkovec Molyneaux	Entertainment Manager
Tim Carey	Merchandising Manager
Michael J. Hagan	Controller
Dan Ferens	Assistant Controller
Jim Ellenberger	Assistant Controller
Geraldine R. Glenn	Ticket Sales Manager
Anthony Griggs	Player Development
John Norwig	Head Trainer
Rick Burkholder	Assistant Trainer
Anthony Parisi	Equipment Manager
Rodgers Freyvogel	Field Manager
Rich Baker	Field Assistant
Bob McCartney	Video Coordinator
Pat Dolan	Video Assistant
Andy Lizanich	Video Assistant
Lou Spanos	Administrative Assistant
Mike Fabus	Photographer
Bill Amatucci	Photographer
Dr. Randy Beatty	Ophthalmologist
Dr. James P. Bradley	Physician/Orthopedic
Dr. Joseph Maroon	Neurological Surgeon
Dr. Richard Rydze	Physician, M.D.
Dr. Abraham J. Twerski	Physician/Consultant
Dr. Anthony P. Yates	Physician, M.D.
Brian Bonifate	Office Staff
Mia Daudet	Office Staff
Marianne Espey	Office Staff
Stacie Lawrence	Office Staff
Renae McNabb	Office Staff
Amie Nuse	Office Staff
Mary Regan	Office Staff
Cyd Roman	Office Staff
Connie Rose	Office Staff
Carolyn Scaife	Office Staff
Ellie Sham	Office Staff
Beverly Zavodni	Office Staff
Mike Miller	Intern
Doug Whaley	Intern

Steelers Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
43	Avery, Steve	RB	6-2	229	8/18/66	2	Northern Michigan
40	Bell, Myron	S	5-11	203	9/15/71	2	Michigan State
94	Brown, Chad	LB	6-2	240	7/12/70	3	Colorado
87	Bruener, Mark	TE	6-4	254	9/16/72	R	Washington
96	Buckner, Brentson	DE	6-2	305	9/30/71	2	Clemson
63	Dawson, Dermontti	C	6-2	288	6/17/65	8	Kentucky
78	Faumui, Taase	DE	6-3	278	3/19/71	2	Hawaii
21	Figures, Deon	CB	6-0	192	1/10/70	3	Colorado
41	Flowers, Lethon	CB	6-0	207	1/14/73	R	Georgia Tech
29	Fuller, Randy	CB	5-10	175	6/2/70	2	Tennessee State
60	Gammon, Kendall	C	6-4	288	10/23/68	4	Pittsburg State
98	Gibson, Oliver	DT	6-2	283	3/15/72	R	Notre Dame
92	Gildon, Jason	LB	6-3	245	7/31/72	2	Oklahoma State
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	7/31/62	11	Auburn
84	Greene, Tracy	TE	6-5	270	11/5/72	2	Grambling State
88	Hastings, Andre	WR	6-1	190	11/7/70	3	Georgia
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	248	8/11/62	11	Iowa
76	Henry, Kevin	DE	6-4	282	10/23/68	3	Mississippi State
83	Holliday, Corey	WR	6-2	208	1/31/71	1	North Carolina
65	Jackson, John	T	6-6	297	1/4/65	8	Eastern Kentucky
90	Johnson, Bill	DT	6-4	300	12/9/68	4	Michigan State
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	202	5/31/60	14	UCLA
54	Jones, Donta	LB	6-2	226	8/27/72	R	Nebraska
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB	6-1	264	2/17/69	4	Clemson
37	Lake, Carnell	CB-S	6-1	210	7/15/67	7	UCLA
34	Lester, Tim	RB	5-9	227	6/15/68	4	Eastern Kentucky
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	228	5/26/65	9	Fort Valley State
28	Mays, Alvoid	CB	5-9	180	7/10/66	6	West Virginia
25	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-10	193	6/20/68	5	Mississippi College
16	Miller, Jim	QB	6-2	210	2/9/71	2	Michigan State
89	Mills, Ernie	WR	5-11	192	10/28/68	5	Florida
33	Morris, Byron (Bam)	RB	6-0	246	1/13/72	2	Texas Tech
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	285	12/20/62	10	Wisconsin-La Crosse
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	227	7/3/66	6	Maryland
24	Oldham, Chris	CB	5-9	193	10/26/68	4	Oregon
55	Olsavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	224	3/29/67	7	Pittsburgh
79	Parrish, James	T	6-6	310	5/19/68	2	Temple
20	Pegram, Erric	RB	5-10	195	1/7/69	5	North Texas State
39	Perry, Darren	S	5-11	196	12/29/68	4	Penn State
57	Ravotti, Eric	LB	6-3	246	3/16/71	2	Penn State
97	Seals, Ray	DE	6-3	306	6/17/65	8	No College
72	Searcy, Leon	T	6-3	304	12/21/69	4	Miami
69	Solomon, Ariel	C-G	6-5	290	7/16/68	5	Colorado
68	Stai, Brenden	G	6-4	297	3/30/72	R	Nebraska
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	5/4/59	14	Florida State
93	Steed, Joel	NT	6-2	300	2/17/69	4	Colorado
10	Stewart, Kordell	QB/WR	6-1	212	10/16/72	R	Colorado
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	G-T	6-6	302	8/18/68	6	Maine
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	202	8/15/69	4	Winston-Salem
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	201	10/23/62	11	Ohio State
22	Williams, John L.	RB	5-11	235	11/23/64	10 *	Florida
27	Williams, Willie	CB	5-9	180	12/26/70	3	Western Carolina
26	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	200	3/10/65	9	Purdue

DEPTH CHART

Offense								
WR	—	82	Yancey Thigpen	88	Andre Hastings	10	Kordell Stewart	
LT	—	65	John Jackson	73	Justin Strzelczyk	79	James Parrish	
LG	—	66	Tom Newberry	73	Justin Strzelczyk	68	Brenden Stai	
C	—	63	Dermontti Dawson	69	Ariel Solomon			
RG	—	68	Brenden Stai	73	Justin Strzelczyk			
RT	—	72	Leon Searcy	73	Justin Strzelczyk			
TE	—	87	Mark Bruener	85	Jonathan Hayes	84	Tracy Greene	
WR	—	89	Ernie Mills	83	Corey Holliday			
QB	—	14	Neil O'Donnell	18	Mike Tomczak	16	Jim Miller	
						10	Kordell Stewart	
RB	—	20	Erric Pegram	33	Byron (Bam) Morris	25	Fred McAfee	
RB	—	22	John L. Williams	43	Steve Avery	34	Tim Lester	
Defense								
LE	—	96	Brentson Buckner	76	Kevin Henry	78	Taase Faumui	
NT	—	93	Joel Steed	96	Brentson Buckner	90	Bill Johnson	
RE	—	97	Ray Seals	76	Kevin Henry	98	Oliver Gibson	
LOLB	—	91	Kevin Greene	92	Jason Gildon			
LILB	—	99	Levon Kirkland	57	Eric Ravotti			
RILB	—	55	Jerry Olsavsky	94	Chad Brown	57	Eric Ravotti	
ROLB	—	95	Greg Lloyd	57	Eric Ravotti	54	Donta Jones	
LCB	—	27	Willie Williams	21	Deon Figures	26	Rod Woodson	
RCB	—	37	Carnell Lake	28	Alvoid Mays	21	Deon Figures	
				24	Chris Oldham	29	Randy Fuller	
SS	—	40	Myron Bell	37	Carnell Lake	41	Lethon Flowers	
FS	—	39	Darren Perry	24	Chris Oldham			
Specialists								
P	—	3	Rohn Stark					
K	—	9	Norm Johnson					
KO	—	9	Norm Johnson					
H	—	3	Rohn Stark	18	Mike Tomczak			
PR	—	88	Andre Hastings	82	Yancey Thigpen	26	Rod Woodson	
KR	—	89	Ernie Mills	20	Erric Pegram	88	Andre Hastings	
PC	—	60	Kendall Gammon	63	Dermontti Dawson			
KC	—	60	Kendall Gammon	63	Dermontti Dawson			

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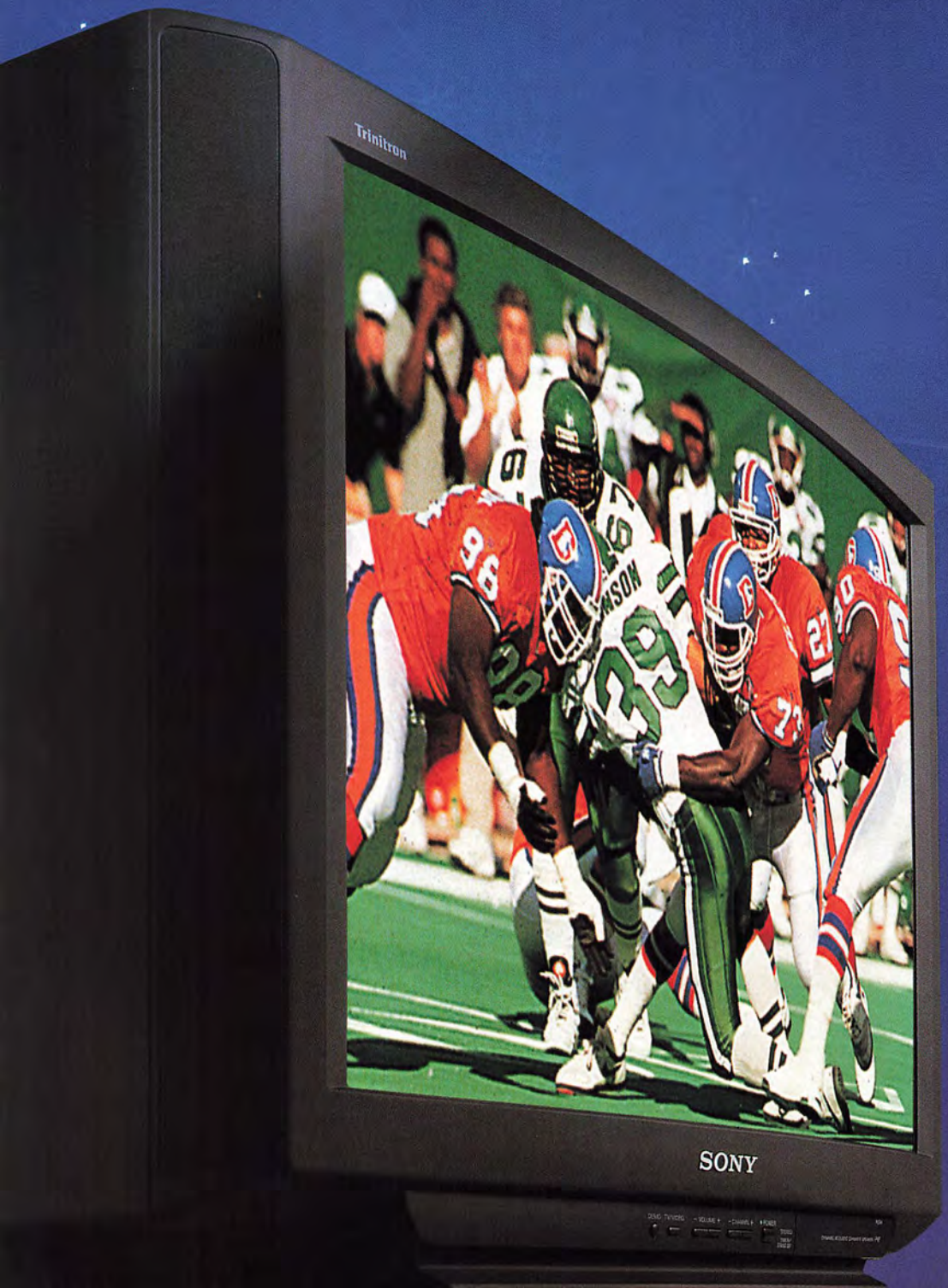

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PLAYERS AND STAFF

DALLAS COWBOYS

Jerry Jones
Owner and General Manager

Stephen Jones
Executive VP/Director of Player Personnel

Larry Lacewell
Director of College and Pro Scouting

Barry Switzer
Head Coach

8 Troy Aikman
Quarterback

11 Wade Wilson
Quarterback

17 Jason Garrett
Quarterback

18 Chris Boniol
Kicker

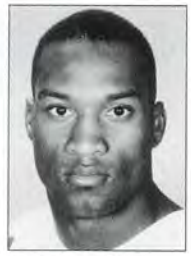
19 John Jett
Punter

20 Sherman Williams
Running Back

21 Deion Sanders
Cornerback-Wide Receiver

22 Emmitt Smith
Running Back

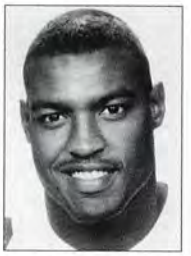
23 Robert Bailey
Cornerback



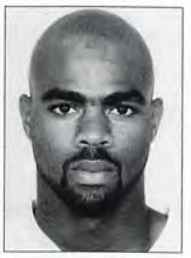
24 Larry Brown
Cornerback

25 Scott Case
Safety

26 Kevin Smith
Cornerback



28 Darren Woodson
Safety



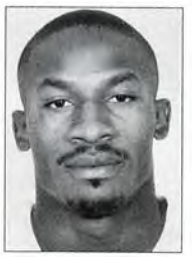
29 Alundis Brice
Cornerback

31 Brock Marion
Safety

36 Dominique Ross
Running Back

38 David Lang
Running Back

40 Bill Bates
Safety



42 Charlie Williams
Safety

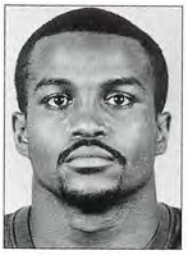
43 Greg Briggs
Safety

47 Clayton Holmes
Cornerback

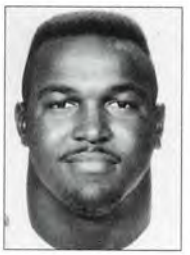
48 Daryl Johnston
Running Back

52 Jim Schwantz
Linebacker

53 Ray Donaldson
Center



54 Darryl Hardy
Linebacker



55 Robert Jones
Linebacker

58 Dixon Edwards
Linebacker

59 Darrin Smith
Linebacker

60 Derek Kennard
Center-Guard

61 Nate Newton
Guard

63 Shane Hannah
Guard

65 Ron Stone
Guard/Tackle

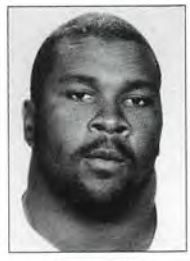
67 Russell Maryland
Defensive Tackle

68 Michael Batiste
Guard/Center

69 George Hegamin
Tackle

70 Dale Hellestrae
Guard/Center

71 Mark Tuinei
Tackle

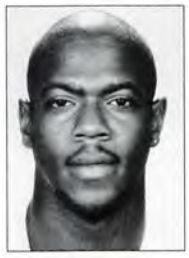


73 Larry Allen
Guard/Tackle

78 Leon Lett
Defensive Lineman

79 Erik Williams
Tackle

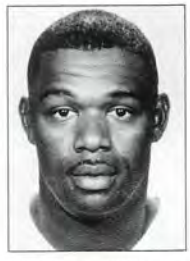
81 Edward Hervey
Wide Receiver



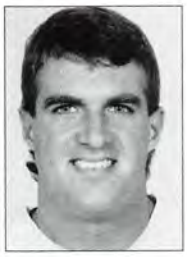
82 Cory Fleming
Wide Receiver

83 Kendell Watkins
Tight End

84 Jay Novacek
Tight End

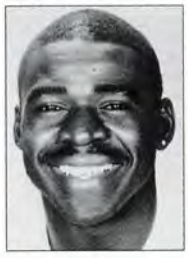


85 Kevin Williams
Wide Receiver



86 Eric Bjornson
Tight End

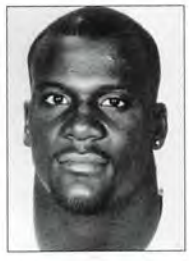
87 Billy Davis
Wide Receiver



88 Michael Irvin
Wide Receiver

90 Oscar Sturgis
Defensive End

91 Darren Benson
Defensive Tackle

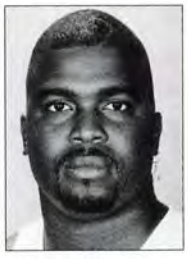


92 Tony Tolbert
Defensive End

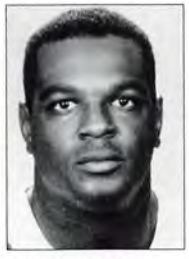
94 Charles Haley
Defensive End

95 Chad Hennings
Defensive Tackle

96 Shante Carver
Defensive End

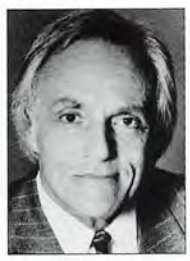


98 Godfrey Myles
Linebacker



99 Hurvin McCormack
Defensive Lineman

Hubbard Alexander
Assistant Coach



Joe Avezzano
Assistant Coach

Craig Boller
Assistant Coach

Joe Brodsky
Assistant Coach

Dave Campo
Assistant Coach

Jim Eddy
Assistant Coach

Robert Ford
Assistant Coach

Steve Hoffman
Assistant Coach

Hudson Houck
Assistant Coach

Mike Woicik
Assistant Coach

Ernie Zampese
Assistant Coach

Mike Zimmer
Assistant Coach

Reebok

fire

You wanna know how
I made the Pro Bowl® game
five years in a row,
look up my stats.
You wanna know how
I'm gonna make it six,
look into my eyes.

Greg Lloyd.
This is my planet.

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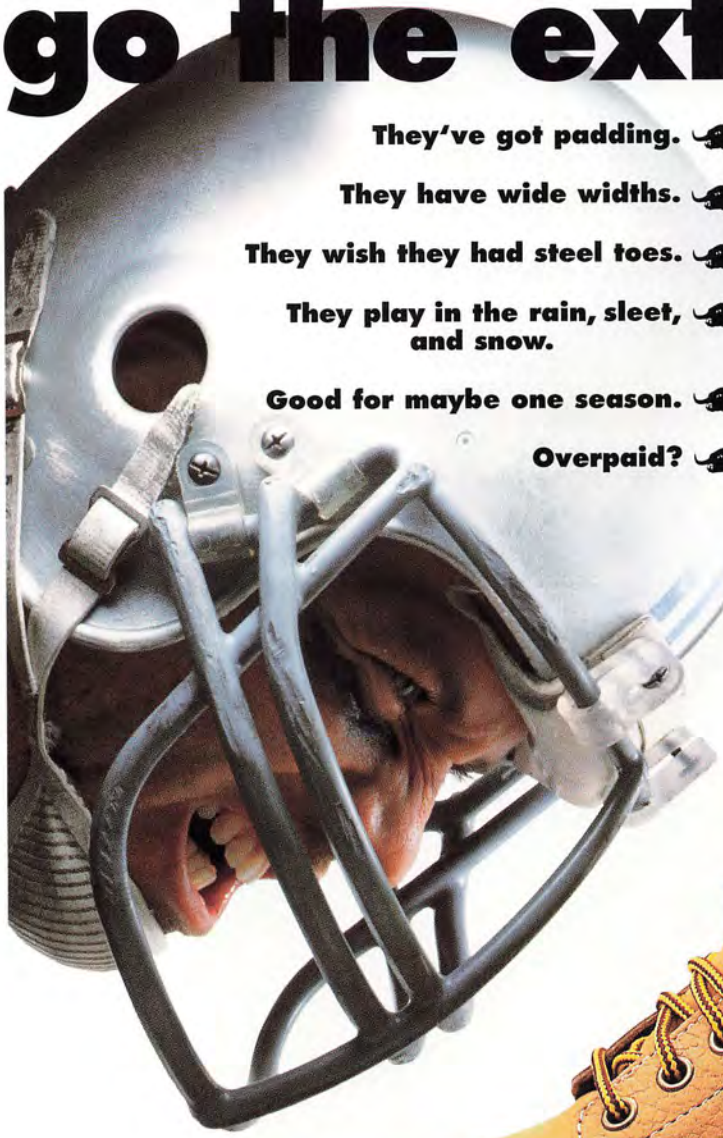
Tough enough to go the extra yard.



They've got padding.	We've got padding.
They have wide widths.	We have wide widths.
They wish they had steel toes.	We have steel toes.
They play in the rain, sleet, and snow.	We play in the rain, sleet, and snow.
Good for maybe one season.	Good for all seasons.
Overpaid?	Underpriced.

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6" Nubuck Leather

$44.99
8" Wide Width

$49.99
Steel Toe

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PITTSBURGH STEELERS

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President

Tom Donahoe
Director of Football Operations

Charles Bailey
Pro Personnel Coordinator

Tom Modrak
College Personnel Coordinator

John Norwig
Head Trainer

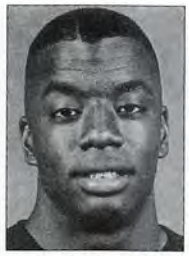
Rick Burkholder
Assistant Trainer

Anthony Griggs
Player Development Coordinator

Bill Cowher
Head Coach

3 Rohn Stark
Punter

9 Norm Johnson
Kicker



10 Kordell Stewart
Quarterback/Wide Receiver

14 Neil O'Donnell
Quarterback

16 Jim Miller
Quarterback

18 Mike Tomczak
Quarterback

20 Erric Pegram
Running Back

21 Deon Figures
Cornerback

22 John L. Williams
Running Back

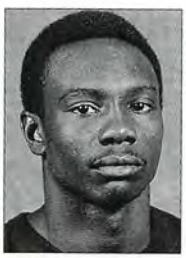
24 Chris Oldham
Cornerback

25 Fred McAfee
Running Back

26 Rod Woodson
Cornerback

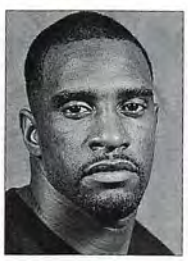
27 Willie Williams
Cornerback

28 Alvoid Mays
Cornerback



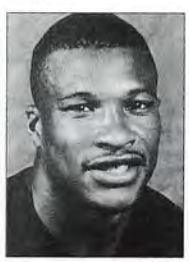
29 Randy Fuller
Cornerback

33 Byron Morris
Running Back



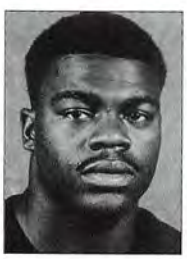
34 Tim Lester
Running Back

37 Carnell Lake
Cornerback-Safety



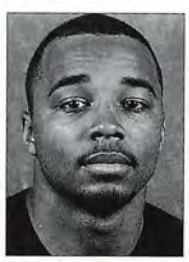
39 Darren Perry
Safety

40 Myron Bell
Safety



41 Lethon Flowers
Cornerback

43 Steve Avery
Running Back



49 Barron Miles
Defensive Back

54 Donta Jones
Linebacker

55 Jerry Olsavsky
Linebacker

57 Eric Ravotti
Linebacker

60 Kendall Gammon
Center

63 Dermontti Dawson
Center

65 John Jackson
Offensive Tackle

66 Tom Newberry
Guard

68 Brenden Stai
Guard

69 Ariel Solomon
Center/Guard

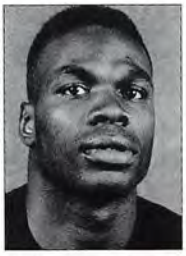
72 Leon Searcy
Offensive Tackle

73 Justin Strzelczyk
Guard/Offensive Tackle

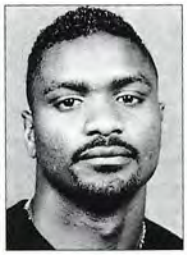
76 Kevin Henry
Defensive End

78 Taase Faumui
Defensive End

79 James Parrish
Offensive Lineman

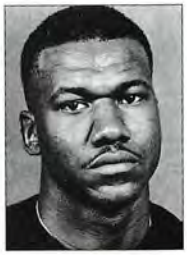


80 Johnnie Barnes
Wide Receiver



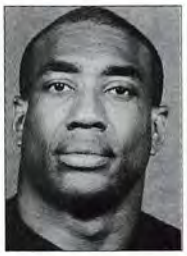
81 Charles Johnson
Wide Receiver

82 Yancey Thigpen
Wide Receiver

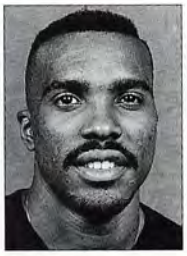


83 Corey Holliday
Wide Receiver

84 Tracy Greene
Tight End



85 Jonathan Hayes
Tight End



86 Damon Mays
Wide Receiver

87 Mark Bruener
Tight End

88 Andre Hastings
Wide Receiver

89 Ernie Mills
Wide Receiver

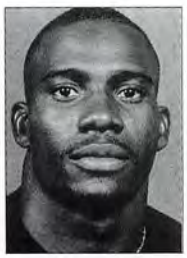
90 Bill Johnson
Defensive Tackle

91 Kevin Greene
Linebacker

92 Jason Gildon
Linebacker

93 Joel Steed
Nose Tackle

94 Chad Brown
Linebacker

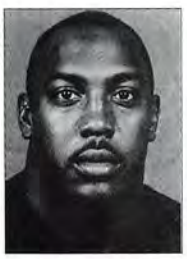


95 Greg Lloyd
Linebacker

96 Brentson Buckner
Defensive End

97 Ray Seals
Defensive End

98 Oliver Gibson
Defensive End



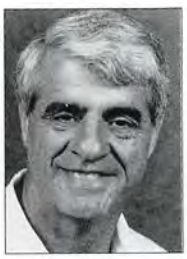
99 Levon Kirkland
Linebacker

Bobby April
Assistant Coach

Ron Erhardt
Assistant Coach

Chet Fuhrman
Assistant Coach

Chan Gailey
Assistant Coach



Dick Hoak
Assistant Coach

Pat Hodgson
Assistant Coach

Dick LeBeau
Assistant Coach

Marvin Lewis
Assistant Coach

Tim Lewis
Assistant Coach

John Mitchell
Assistant Coach

Kent Stephenson
Assistant Coach

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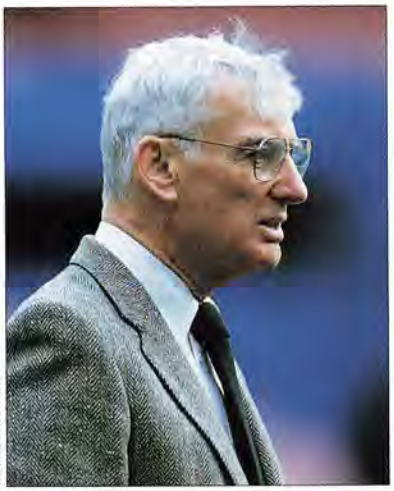
AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Daniel M. Rooney • Pittsburgh Steelers

The fifth-oldest franchise, and one of the most storied clubs in NFL history, the Steelers have been run by the Rooney family since their inception on July 8, 1933.

Art Rooney, Sr., was the original owner and patriarch of the Steelers until his death at age 87 in 1988. Dan Rooney had taken over as president of the team in 1975, following Pittsburgh's first Super Bowl triumph. Three more Lombardi trophies would be won in the next five years.

But Dan had been running football operations before 1975. He was instrumental in the hiring of Chuck Noll, architect of the four Super Bowl victories, in 1969, and was the main supporter after Noll's 1-13 start. Rooney and Noll together built the Super Bowl champions.

Prior to that, it had been 40 years of frustration. The Steelers never won an NFL championship until Super Bowl IX in January, 1975. Art Rooney paid $2,500 for the franchise in 1933. The elder Rooney, one of the most beloved men in the history of the NFL, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1964. In all, 20 people associated with the Steelers are honored at the Canton, Ohio, shrine.

Dan Rooney is extremely involved with community affairs as well as NFL committees. He is a board member for many institutions, including: The United Way of America, Presbyterian University Hospital, Duquesne University, and The American Diabetes Association.

Rooney currently is a member of the Hall of Fame Committee, the NFL Properties Executive Committee, and the Management Council Executive Committee. He was the chairman of the Expansion Committee in 1973, which awarded new NFL franchises to Tampa Bay and Seattle in 1976, and he played an integral role in the labor agreement between the players and owners in 1993.

JAMES D. SMITH

Jerry Jones • Dallas Cowboys

In 1989, when Jerry Jones purchased the Dallas Cowboys, his goal was clear: Return the organization to the Super Bowl. There would be no substitute for winning.

The same day he purchased the team, Jones named Jimmy Johnson as head coach. In four years under Jones and Johnson, the club went from a 1-15 record in 1989 to back-to-back Super Bowl victories in the 1992 and 1993 seasons. The Cowboys became only the fifth organization to win successive Super Bowls and only the third to win four titles in all. The 1992 title under Jones was the first for Dallas since 1977.

In the last 16 years, 17 different owners have entered the National Football League. Of that group, only Jones has guided his franchise to a Super Bowl championship.

When Barry Switzer replaced Johnson as coach in 1994, the team advanced to the NFC Championship Game, before returning to the Super Bowl this season. It is the club's eighth Super Bowl, most in the NFL.

Along the way to success on the field, Jones has established himself as one of the league's most influential and active owners. With his appointment to the NFL's prestigious Competition Committee in May of 1992, Jones became the first owner to serve in that capacity since the late Paul Brown. As a member of the NFL's Broadcasting Committee, the Dallas owner was a key player in the lucrative agreement that brought the FOX Network to the NFL as the holder of the NFC television package.

Born October 13, 1942, Jones and his wife Gene have three children, Stephen, Charlotte, and Jerry, Jr., and four grandchildren. The Dallas owner is involved in numerous civic and charitable causes. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, tennis, water skiing, and snow skiing.

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Touchdown, Field Goal, or Successful Try

Safety

Time Out

Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established, Crowd Noise

First Down

Personal Foul

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game, Illegal Substitution, or Excess Time Out

No Time Out or Time in With Whistle

Offside, Encroaching, or Neutral Zone Infraction

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, Missed Field Goal, or Extra Point

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift, Illegal Formation, or Kickoff or Safety Kick Out of Bounds

Illegal Substitution or Too Many Men on the Field

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

Pass Juggled Inbounds and Caught Out of Bounds

Illegal Forward Pass

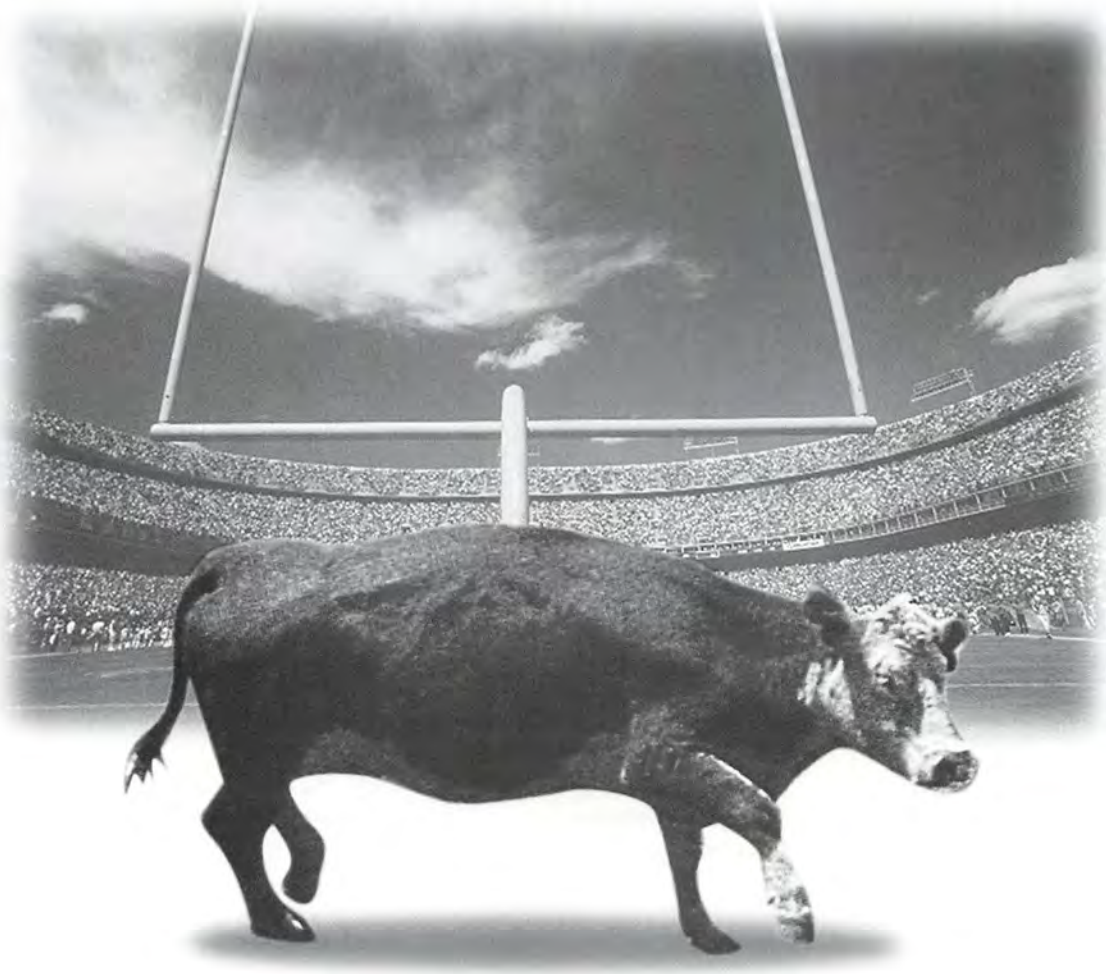
Loss of Down

Invalid Fair-Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch

Contrary to Popular Belief, the Best Beef Is Not Found on Offensive Lines.



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Men's Division Winning Team: Scaw Metals

MEN'S DIVISION FINALISTS

General Electric
Albany, NY

Boeing
Atlanta, GA

General Electric
Boston, MA

US Postal Service
Buffalo, NY

Scaw Metals &
CNA Insurance
Chicago, IL

Deutsche Bank
Frankfurt, Germany

Allied Signal
Liberty State Park, NJ

Ford Motor Company
London, U.K.

NYC Fire Department
Long Island, NY

Prudential Insurance
Morristown, NJ

NYC Board of Education
New York, NY

IBM Corporation
Paramus, NJ

Eastman Kodak
Rochester, NY

Pacific Telesis Group
San Francisco, CA

Pfizer
Stamford, CT

Lockheed Martin
Syracuse, NY

Women's Division Winning Team: NationsBank

WOMEN'S DIVISION FINALISTS

Albany Medical Center
Albany, NY

NationsBank
Atlanta, GA

Reebok
Boston, MA

National Fuel Gas
Buffalo, NY

De Paul University
Chicago, IL

Morgan Stanley
Frankfurt, Germany

ADP
Liberty State Park, NJ

Barclays Bank
London, U.K.

Nassau County Police
Long Island, NY

ADP
Morristown, NJ

Rodale Press
New York, NY

ADP
Paramus, NJ

Eastman Kodak
Rochester, NY

Synopsys
San Francisco, CA

IBM Corporation
Stamford, CT

SUNY Health Science Center
Syracuse, NY

Coed Division Winning Team: Hyde Athletic Industries

COED DIVISION FINALISTS

General Electric
Albany, NY

Delta Airlines
Atlanta, GA

Hyde Athletic Industries
Boston, MA

Marine Midland Bank
Buffalo, NY

Arthur Andersen
Chicago, IL

Bundeskriminalamt
Frankfurt, Germany

AT&T
Liberty State Park, NJ

Barclays Bank
London, U.K.

Brookhaven National Lab
Long Island, NY

NYC Board of Education
Morristown, NJ

Rodale Press
New York, NY

Lockheed Martin
Paramus, NJ

University of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Oracle Corporation
San Francisco, CA

Pfizer
Stamford, CT

St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center
Syracuse, NY

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foot Locker. Elan Low Fat Frozen Yogurt SAUCONY Office DEPOT Doral Hotels of New York

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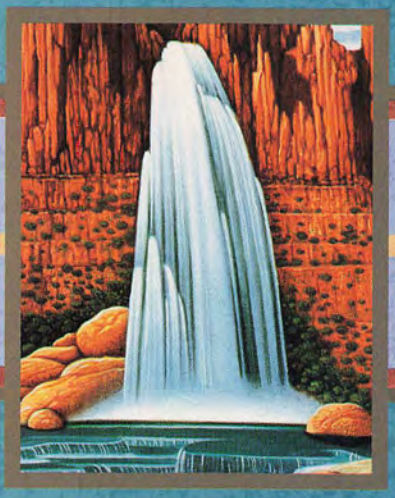

SUPER BOWL SPOTLIGHT

A FEAST OF SUPER FEATURES,
INCLUDING THE VINNYS, JOE MONTANA,
THE 1985 BEARS, WEEB EWBANK,
Plus Words From
Robert James Waller, Tony Hillerman,
and Others

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH SUPER BOWL

The National Football League

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE VINNYS™

HONORING

THE BEST SINGLE-GAME PERFORMANCES IN SUPER BOWL HISTORY

The Categories

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A QUARTERBACK • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A RUNNING BACK • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A WIDE RECEIVER • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A TIGHT END • BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN OFFENSIVE LINE • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A DEFENSIVE LINEMAN • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LINEBACKER • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A DEFENSIVE BACK • BEST PERFORMANCE BY A SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER • BEST PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE • BEST DIRECTION BY A COACH • BEST GAME

The motion picture industry has the Oscars. Television has the Emmys. Behind every great entertainment medium is a great awards presentation. Which brings us to the Super Bowl, an entertainment vehicle without parallel—the most carefully cast, lavishly produced, and avidly watched spectacle of the year. In 30 years of Super Bowls, how many outstanding performances have gone unacknowledged? How many supporting roles have been overshadowed? Which of the game's many MVPs merit special praise? Those questions need go unanswered no longer. A panel of football experts, armed with firsthand observations, assembled this season to pick the best single-game performances in the NFL's biggest game. On the occasion of the thirtieth Super Bowl, with a bow to Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi after whom the awards are named, we proudly present the nominees for the Vinnys. (The winners are found on page 148.)

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A QUARTERBACK

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

JOE MONTANA · SUPER BOWL XXIII

When Montana stepped into the 49ers' huddle on their last offensive series of the game, his team was 92 yards from the Cincinnati Bengals' end zone and trailed 16-13 with 3:10 left to play. On a day when he already had completed 15 of 27 passes for 260 yards and a touchdown, the San Francisco quarterback was forced to dig deep one more time. In a masterful drive that spanned 11 plays and consumed 2:46, he completed 8 of 9 passes to four different receivers in moving the length of the field. A 10-yard completion to John Taylor—his only catch of the game—capped a classic 20-16 victory.

MALCOLM EMMONS

JOE NAMATH · SUPER BOWL III

Even without any added pressure, Namath would have had his work cut out. His job was to lead the 11-3 Jets of the upstart AFL against the Baltimore Colts, a veteran NFL team that had outscored opponents 402-144 in rolling up a 13-1 regular-season record. But that wasn't enough of a challenge for Namath, who brashly "guaranteed" a victory at a public appearance three days before the game. On January 12, 1969, he was as good as his word, mixing plays and reading defenses to complete 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards and lift the Jets to a 16-7 victory before a stunned Orange Bowl crowd.

ROB BROWN

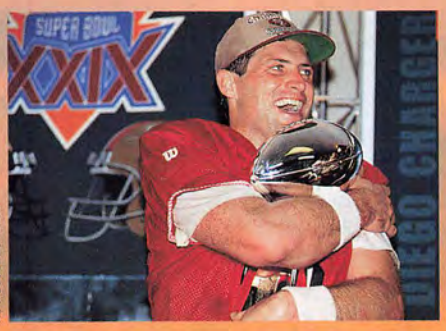
PHIL SIMMS · SUPER BOWL XXI

Simms had escaped the spotlight during the 1986 season, even as the Giants constructed a 14-2 record. His passer rating (74.6) ranked thirteenth in the NFL, and his 21 touchdown passes were tempered by 22 interceptions. Perhaps he was pacing himself. In a 39-20 victory over the Denver Broncos, Simms ignited to set a Super Bowl record by completing 88 percent of his passes (22 of 25)—for 268 yards and 3 touchdowns. He was perfect on all 10 second-half attempts, during which New York scored 30 points. "No one will ever have a better game," teammate Phil McConkey said. "Not in that situation."

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

DOUG WILLIAMS · SUPER BOWL XXII

As the first black quarterback to start in a Super Bowl, Williams was certain of making history. But his designation seemed destined to be little more than a footnote when he suffered a strained knee in the first quarter and was replaced by Redskins backup Jay Schroeder. By the second quarter, Williams made his return—and it never will be forgotten. He threw touchdown passes of 80, 27, 50, and 8 yards in barely 13 minutes as the Redskins blitzed the Denver Broncos with a Super Bowl-record 35 points in one quarter. He finished with 340 passing yards in Washington's 42-10 victory.



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

STEVE YOUNG · SUPER BOWL XXIX

He had been the league's leading passer for four consecutive seasons, and he had been the NFL Player of the Year, but Young never had taken his team to a Super Bowl before facing the San Diego Chargers. Any questions about his performance under pressure evaporated with the 49ers' first offensive series. Just 1:24 into the game, Young connected with Jerry Rice on a 44-yard bomb, the first of a record-setting 6 touchdown passes he threw in the game. Young not only completed 24 of 36 passes for 325 yards, he also led all rushers with 49 yards on 5 carries as the 49ers enjoyed a 49-26 victory.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A RUNNING BACK

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

MARCUS ALLEN · SUPER BOWL XVIII

No one has averaged more yards per carry (9.6) in a Super Bowl than Allen, who spearheaded the Raiders in a 38-9 victory over the Washington Redskins. But it wasn't the average per carry that wowed the crowd at Tampa Stadium. It was a third-quarter breakaway run that was anything but average. On first down from his own 26, Allen took a handoff, started left, and seemed penned in. Like a top on its axis, he spun 270 degrees and cut back between tacklers to where he had just been. He split tacklers and didn't stop until he had raced 74 yards for his second touchdown. He finished with 191 yards on 20 carries.

MALCOLM EMMONS

LARRY CSONKA · SUPER BOWL VIII

During the 1973 season, the Miami Dolphins' favorite offensive play was a handoff to Csonka, their 235-pound runaway train. One of every 3½ plays that year featured the thundering fullback trampling through the line. But not even the Dolphins could have imagined how dominant he would be in Super Bowl VIII against the Minnesota Vikings, renowned for a defense known as the Purple People Eaters. Csonka carried the ball on 33 of Miami's 61 offensive snaps. His 145 rushing yards accounted for most of the Dolphins' 259 total yards. He scored 2 of Miami's 3 touchdowns in a 24-7 triumph.

SYLVIA ALLEN

FRANCO HARRIS · SUPER BOWL IX

The measure of Harris's role in the Steelers' offense can be measured like this: During a 16-6 victory over the Minnesota Vikings, in which the Steelers controlled possession for nearly 39 minutes, future Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw was required to complete only 9 passes for 96 yards while Harris carried 34 times for 158. Few explanations are simpler than that. Although none of his running attempts went for more than 25 yards, Harris was an unstoppable force who turned slivers of daylight into 5- and 6-yard gains. He also scored the first of the Steelers' 2 touchdowns.

JOHN McDONOUGH

JOHN RIGGINS · SUPER BOWL XVII

The Redskins had the ball on the Miami 43-yard line, trailing 17-13, with little more than 10 minutes to play. The situation was fourth-down-and-1, and every fan in North America knew who was going to get the next handoff. That's what made Riggins special. On a play designed for goal-line situations, the 250-pound running back sliced through a hole on the left side of the line, broke free from cornerback Don McNeal's arm tackle, and rumbled like a diesel truck to a 43-yard touchdown. The Redskins never looked back in a 27-17 victory, and Riggins finished with a record 166 yards on 38 carries.

RON VESELY

THURMAN THOMAS · SUPER BOWL XXV

If a last-second field-goal attempt by Scott Norwood had not sailed just outside the right upright, the Buffalo Bills would have defeated the New York Giants in their first Super Bowl appearance—and Thurman Thomas likely would have been the game's most valuable player. Fate denied him the victory (the Giants won 20-19) but it couldn't erase his statistics: Thomas gained 135 yards on 15 carries, 55 yards on 5 pass receptions, and scored the Bills' final touchdown on a 31-yard run, which staked them to a 19-17 fourth-quarter lead.

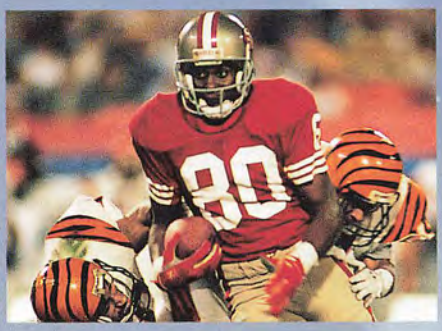
BEST PERFORMANCE BY A WIDE RECEIVER

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

TONY TOMSIC

FRED BILETNIKOFF · SUPER BOWL XI

The statistics that chronicle Biletnikoff's performance against the Minnesota Vikings don't begin to describe his importance to the Raiders. They say he had only 4 catches for 79 yards. The thing is, 3 of those catches set up Oakland touchdowns from the 1- or 2-yard lines. On third-and-3 from the Vikings' 6, he snagged a 5-yard catch. On first-and-10 from the Vikings' 18, he made a 17-yard gain. On third-and-6 from the 50, Biletnikoff made a 48-yard reception. In each instance, the Raiders' next play was a touchdown—the only touchdowns they scored on offense in a 32-14 triumph.



PETER READ MILLER

JERRY RICE · SUPER BOWL XXIII

The assault he made on the record book would have been enough to distinguish the 49ers' Rice. His 11 catches tied a Super Bowl record set seven years earlier by Cincinnati's Dan Ross. His 215 receiving yards surpassed the mark established by Ricky Sanders of Washington. But what made his performance even more memorable in a 20-16 victory over the Bengals was the pressure under which he performed. Three times, the 49ers had to come from behind, including a 92-yard drive in the game's final 3:10. On that march, he had 3 catches for 51 yards. Not coincidentally, he was the game's MVP.

VERNON BIEVER

GEORGE SAUER · SUPER BOWL III

On a day when Joe Namath made headlines, completing 17 passes and upsetting the Baltimore Colts 16-7, Sauer was more than a little instrumental. He caught 8 of those passes for 133 yards. With his better-known teammate, Hall of Fame receiver Don Maynard, slowed almost to a standstill with a pulled hamstring, Sauer took on the role of primary target for Namath and led all receivers in the game. In the Jets' first scoring drive, covering 80 yards, Sauer had 2 catches for 25 yards. In their last, a 61-yard march, he had 2 receptions for 50 yards. Maynard spent the day serving as a decoy.

JOHN BIEVER

JOHN STALLWORTH · SUPER BOWL XIV

To the surprise of a nation of NFL fans who had become accustomed to seeing the Steelers win Super Bowls, the Los Angeles Rams owned a 19-17 lead with barely 12 minutes left to play, and the Steelers were penned in at their own 27-yard line. On third-down-and-8, Stallworth made a sprinting catch beyond the outstretched arms of cornerback Rod Perry that turned a 41-yard pass into a 73-yard touchdown, putting the Steelers ahead to stay. Stallworth, who described his performance in Pittsburgh's 31-17 triumph as "the culmination of my career," finished with only 3 catches—but for an unforgettable 121 yards.

HEINZ KLUTMEIER

LYNN SWANN · SUPER BOWL X

The lasting memory is of a diving, sprawling, fingertip catch that covered 53 yards only after being tipped and plucked miraculously from the air. But that was far from the only damage that Swann inflicted on the Dallas Cowboys in the Steelers' 21-17 victory. He also reined in a 32-yard spiral on the Steelers' first scoring drive and a 64-yard bomb that accounted for Pittsburgh's last touchdown. In the week leading up to the game, there had been some doubt whether Swann could play because of a concussion suffered in the AFC Championship Game. As it turned out, he was the game's MVP.

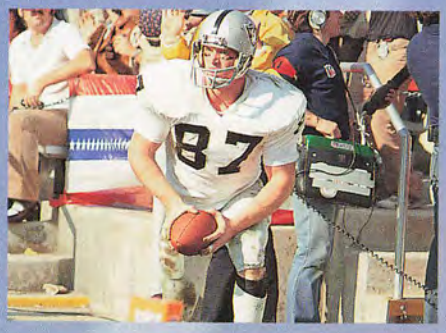
BEST PERFORMANCE BY A TIGHT END

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

MARK BAVARO · SUPER BOWL XXI

The New York Giants team that won Super Bowl XXI was built to coach Bill Parcells's specifications, and a key ingredient was a solid tight end who could both open holes for the ground game and maintain ball possession with sure-handed receptions. Bavaro was the man. In a 39-20 victory over the Denver Broncos in which the Giants had the ball for nearly 35 minutes, Bavaro not only did his work in the pits, he also was second on his club with 51 yards in receptions. The Broncos were ahead 10-9 in the third quarter when he made his biggest catch, a 13-yard touchdown that put the Giants in front to stay.



DARRYL NORENBERG

DAVE CASPER · SUPER BOWL XI

It was impossible to separate the success of the Raiders from Casper's contributions in the 1976 season. On a team that featured standout wide receivers Cliff Branch and Fred Biletnikoff, a future Pro Football Hall of Fame member, Casper was the leading pass catcher with 53 receptions. A go-to guy in pressure situations, he made his presence felt quickly in a 32-14 Super Bowl victory over the Vikings. Two of his first three receptions converted third-down situations. His fourth reception was a 1-yard touchdown. For the game, he caught 4 of Ken Stabler's 12 completions, good for 70 yards.

JAMES D. SMITH

JAY NOVACEK · SUPER BOWL XXVII

The three best-known players on the 1992 Cowboys' offense were quarterback Troy Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith, and wide receiver Michael Irvin, but the first one to score a Super Bowl touchdown was Novacek, the sometimes-overlooked tight end. Against the Buffalo Bills, who were guilty of just that, he scored a first-quarter touchdown on a 23-yard pass. Before the game had ended, Novacek delivered several other reminders of his presence in a 52-17 Cowboys victory. He led the Cowboys in receptions with 7 catches, good for 72 yards.

TONY TOMSIC

DAN ROSS · SUPER BOWL XVI

With the enviable advantage of hindsight, it's easy enough to see why the San Francisco 49ers should have been wary of Ross, a tight end who rarely struck fear into the hearts of opponents. The 1981 season easily was the best of his seven in the NFL: He had 71 catches for 910 yards and 5 touchdowns—impressive totals for a possession receiver. The Super Bowl was merely an extension of the regular season for the Bengals' tight end. He not only led all receivers, he set a Super Bowl record with 11 receptions (for 104 yards) in the game, including 2 of Cincinnati's touchdowns in a 26-21 defeat.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

DON WARREN · SUPER BOWL XVII

Warren was considerably more than just a pass-catching tight end. His blocking skills were such that his fellow linemen—Joe Jacoby, Russ Grimm, Jeff Bostic, Fred Dean, and George Starke—welcomed him as member of the "Hogs." So he had more than a token role against Miami's "Killer Bees" defense as the Redskins racked up 276 rushing yards, including 166 by John Riggins, in a 27-17 victory. But Warren also figured in the passing game, catching 5 of Joe Theismann's 15 completions for 28 yards, including 2 successful third-down conversions and 2 catches on the Redskins' third scoring drive.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN OFFENSIVE LINE

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

QIN ELLIS

DALLAS COWBOYS · SUPER BOWL XXVIII

If the offensive wall of the Cowboys—Mark Tuinei, Nate Newton, John Gesek, Kevin Gogan, and Erik Williams—had walked side by side through the the streets of Atlanta on the night before the game, they might have been mistaken for a small herd of cattle. On *average*, the five linemen weighed 313 pounds and stood 6 feet 5 inches tall. If they weren't able to move mountains, as the Buffalo Bills learned, they were at least able to move defenses. The results: 341 total yards—an average of 5.3 yards per play—and a 30-13 victory. Emmitt Smith rushed for 132 yards behind this group.

JAMES FLORES

GREEN BAY PACKERS · SUPER BOWL I

The Packers' offensive line, handcrafted by Vince Lombardi, learned an early lesson: Crisp execution enabled the players to avoid the coach's wrath. Quickness and speed were two hallmarks of a group that included Forrest Gregg, Jerry Kramer, Bill Curry, Fuzzy Thurston, and Bill Skoronski. Best known for their blocking on the sweeps, they also could pass block when needed, even against rushers as talented as the Chiefs' Buck Buchanan and Bobby Bell. Behind that protection, Bart Starr passed for 2 touchdowns and 250 yards—the highest individual total in the first 12 Super Bowls—in a 35-10 victory.

VERNON BIEVER

MIAMI DOLPHINS · SUPER BOWL VIII

The workhorses who made up the Dolphins' offensive line, like most of their counterparts at the time, toiled largely in anonymity throughout the NFL season. Not even Dolphins fans spent much time discussing the talents of Wayne Moore, Bob Kuechenberg, Jim Langer, Larry Little, and Norm Evans. The Vikings, on the other hand, were the Purple People Eaters of defensive fame. But when the two forces met in Super Bowl VIII, the Vikings were the ones who were devoured. Miami controlled possession for 33:45, steamrolled for 196 yards on the ground, and coasted to an easy 24-7 victory.

TONY TOMSIC

OAKLAND RAIDERS · SUPER BOWL XI

The Raiders' opponents, the Minnesota Vikings, had been nothing less than stingy during the 1976 regular season. The 176 points they had surrendered were the fewest allowed by any NFC team. They were a veteran defense led by Alan Page, Carl Eller, and the Purple People Eaters, but they were no match for the offensive line of Art Shell, Gene Upshaw, Dave Dalby, George Buehler, and John Vella. Oakland put together first-half scoring drives of 90 and 64 yards, gained 429 yards for the game (266 on the ground), and rolled to a convincing 32-14 victory.

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

WASHINGTON REDSKINS · SUPER BOWL XVII

The offensive linemen who powered the Redskins to a record of 8-1 in the strike-shortened 1982 season answered to the less-than-enviable nickname of "Hogs." What was enviable was the way they created holes at the line of scrimmage and neutralized pass rushers. Joe Jacoby, Russ Grimm, Jeff Bostic, George Starke, and Fred Dean put on a show of power in Super Bowl XVII that enabled the Redskins to accumulate 400 total yards (to 176 for Miami), collect 24 first downs (to Miami's 9), and run 78 offensive plays (to 47 for the Dolphins) in a 27-17 victory.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

BILL CUMMINGS

RICHARD DENT · SUPER BOWL XX

Dent arrived in New Orleans with a reputation as big as the Superdome: During the regular season, he had led the NFL with 17 quarterback sacks, tipped 2 passes that then were intercepted, intercepted 2 passes of his own, and returned 1 for a touchdown. But even with that advance warning, the Patriots couldn't slow him down. During the Bears' 46-10 victory, Dent collected 1½ sacks, made 3 tackles, and forced 2 fumbles. The fumbles, which came on successive first-quarter plays, helped turn a 3-3 game into a 13-3 Bears lead. Dent was the game's MVP.

DARRYL NORENBERG

MANNY FERNANDEZ · SUPER BOWL VII

During the 1972 season, his fifth with the Dolphins, Fernandez was voted the club's outstanding defensive lineman for the fifth time. His 5 quarterback sacks and 2 fumble recoveries were only part of the story. Despite being double-teamed 150 times, by assistant coach Mike Scarry's count, Fernandez led the club's defensive linemen in tackles. His play in a 14-7 Super Bowl victory over the Redskins was more of the same. He was in on 10 tackles, had a quarterback sack, and helped shut down running back Larry Brown, who had six 100-yard games in the regular season. Against the Dolphins, he gained 72 yards.

MALCOLM EMMONS

HARVEY MARTIN · SUPER BOWL XII

In 1977, NFL quarterbacks didn't need to be told twice about the damage that Martin could do to a game plan. With 23 quarterback sacks, 2 fumble recoveries, and untold tipped passes, he put the doom in the heralded Doomsday Defense. It was little surprise that the Cowboys surrendered the fewest yards in the league. Named the *Associated Press* defensive player of the year for his performance during the regular season, Martin kept up the pressure in a 27-10 Super Bowl victory over Denver. He had 2 tackles, 2 quarterback sacks, 1 tipped pass, and a big role in forcing 4 interceptions.

R.H. STAGG

DWIGHT WHITE · SUPER BOWL IX

Super Bowl week was all but wasted on White, who contracted pleurisy on the flight to New Orleans and spent the next six days in bed. On game day, the Steelers' right defensive end weighed in 18 pounds under his normal playing weight, and assistant coaches were wondering whether he'd survive the pregame warmup. All of which makes his performance that much more memorable. He accounted for the Steelers' first points in a 16-6 victory by downing Vikings quarterback Fran Tarkenton in the end zone for a safety —1 of his 3 tackles for the game—and he missed only a handful of plays all day.

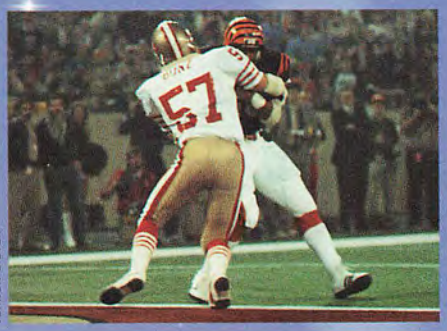
PETER READ MILLER

RANDY WHITE · SUPER BOWL XII

The 1977 season marked White's transition from linebacker to defensive tackle. Not coincidentally, it marked the first of his nine consecutive trips to the Pro Bowl. Nicknamed "Manster" (half-man, half-monster) by teammate Charlie Waters, the Cowboys' defensive star possessed enough strength to overpower linemen and enough speed to chase down ball carriers. In Super Bowl XII, when he shared MVP honors with teammate Harvey Martin, he did both. He had 5 tackles and 1 quarterback sack in the Cowboys' 27-10 victory as the Broncos were held to 11 first downs and 156 yards total offense.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LINEBACKER

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:



VERNON BIEVER

DAN BUNZ · SUPER BOWL XVI

Bunz never played in a Pro Bowl during his seven-year career with the 49ers, but that didn't prevent him from carving out his own niche in San Francisco football lore. In a goal-line defensive series against the Bengals that turned out to be the difference in the game, Bunz came through with three big plays: (1) stopping Pete Johnson after 2 yards on a first-down carry from the 3; (2) tackling Charles Alexander, after a reception, for no gain; (3) joining in a mob that stuffed Johnson on fourth-and-goal from the 1. The last collision broke his chin strap and dislodged his facemask. The 49ers won 26-21.

RICHARD RAPHAEL

CHUCK HOWLEY · SUPER BOWL V

Of all the testimonies to Howley's performance in Super Bowl V, the most impressive is this: After 29 Super Bowls, he remains the only player from a losing team to be named the game's most valuable player. The Cowboys' all-pro linebacker did everything in his power to avert what turned out to be a 16-13 loss to the Colts. He intercepted a pass by Johnny Unitas in the first quarter and returned it 22 yards to set up a Dallas field goal. In the fourth quarter, with the Cowboys clinging to a 13-6 lead, he intercepted a pass by Earl Morrall in the end zone. Howley also contributed 4 tackles.

JOHN BIEVER

JACK LAMBERT · SUPER BOWL X

Even in 1975, just the second season of Lambert's NFL career, he was an indispensable element of the Steel Curtain defense. He led the team in tackles during the regular season and recovered an AFC Championship Game-record 3 fumbles in a 16-10 victory over the Raiders. In a 21-17 Super Bowl victory over Dallas, he delivered in other ways. On defense, he made 14 tackles and knocked down a fourth-quarter end-zone pass. On special teams, when Cliff Harris taunted the Steelers' Roy Gerela after a missed field goal, Lambert knocked him to the turf. "The Steelers don't get intimidated," he said later.

JOHN BIEVER

ROD MARTIN · SUPER BOWL XV

It's hard to overestimate Martin's contribution to the Raiders' 27-10 victory over the Eagles. On the third play of the game, he intercepted a pass intended for John Spagnola and returned it to Philadelphia's 30-yard line. In the third quarter, with the Eagles in Raiders' territory, he stepped in front of his second interception. In the fourth quarter, he set a Super Bowl record with his third pick. He also had 5 tackles. "I think they had a game plan to go away from Ted Hendricks, and I was usually the guy on the other side." Martin said. "I thought they might change after a while, but they never did."

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

WILBER MARSHALL · SUPER BOWL XXVI

Because the 1991 Redskins led the NFL in scoring, they are remembered as coach Joe Gibbs's offensive creation. But a defense that allowed 224 points—second best in the league—also had something to do with the team's success. Marshall, a cagey veteran in his eighth season, was at the heart of that defense. During the regular season, he had a career-high 135 tackles and tied for second in the NFC with 5 interceptions. He was a major reason the Redskins tied for the lead in turnover ratio (plus-18). In a 37-24 Super Bowl victory over the Bills, he had 11 tackles, 1 sack, and 2 forced fumbles.

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A DEFENSIVE BACK

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

TONY TOMSIC

WILLIE BROWN · SUPER BOWL XI

Interceptions were Brown's trademark. The Raiders' defensive captain had equaled an NFL record during the 1976 season by recording an interception in his fourteenth successive season. So his performance in Super Bowl XI, a 32-14 victory over the Vikings, was a reflection of his career. Playing across from record-setting quarterback Fran Tarkenton and one of the highest-scoring offenses in the league, Brown defensed 2 passes, collected 2 tackles, and intercepted a pass, which he returned 75 yards for a Super Bowl record and a touchdown.

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

BRAD EDWARDS · SUPER BOWL XXVI

The Redskins seemed to know they had a jewel in Edwards. Even though he had started only nine games in his career, they named him the starting free safety at the beginning of the 1991 season. He responded with 4 interceptions, twice was named NFC defensive player of the week, and finished second on the team in tackles. Then came the Super Bowl, and he got even better. In a 37-24 victory over the Bills, Edwards had 2 interceptions, which he returned for 56 yards, and 5 passes defensed. He also put a memorable hit on Don Beebe, breaking up a goal-line reception.

NFL PHOTOS

JAKE SCOTT · SUPER BOWL VII

To the surprise of even the Dolphins, who didn't draft him until the seventh round, Scott seemed born to play pro football. By the end of the 1972 season, his third in the NFL, the free safety had 17 interceptions and a reputation as the Dolphins' best pass defender. Against the Redskins in Super Bowl VII, that meant he had to shadow superstar receiver Charley Taylor. Taylor caught 2 passes. Scott had 2 interceptions, including one in the end zone in the fourth quarter as the Redskins threatened to score. His 55-yard return helped secure a 14-7 victory and earned Scott the selection as the game's MVP.

ROB BROWN

JAMES WASHINGTON · SUPER BOWL XXVIII

If it hadn't been for the Cowboys' opponent—the Bills had a wide-open passing attack—Washington might have began Super Bowl XXVIII as he began all but one game in 1993: on the bench. He was inserted as free safety when the Cowboys went to a Nickel defense. The rest is history: Washington forced a first-quarter fumble by Thurman Thomas that resulted in a Cowboys' field goal, and he returned a third-quarter Thomas fumble for a 46-yard touchdown. In the fourth quarter, he returned an interception to Buffalo's 34 to set up a Dallas touchdown. He also had 11 tackles in a 30-13 victory.

JAMES P. FLORES

WILLIE WOOD · SUPER BOWL I

With the Packers protecting a 14-10 lead over the AFL's Chiefs at the beginning of the third quarter—and with NFL diehards biting their nails—Wood showed why he was destined for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Quarterback Len Dawson released a hurried pass on third-and-5, and Wood swept in front of tight end Fred Arbanas, intercepted the ball, and raced 50 yards to Kansas City's 5. From there, the Packers took a 21-10 lead, and were off to a 35-10 rout. "You don't like to think that one play can make that much of a difference," said Chiefs coach Hank Stram, "but in this case it did."

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

BILL MOUNT

ANDRE COLEMAN · SUPER BOWL XXIX

Coleman's rookie season was enough to put a smile on any coach's face: In 1994, he became the first player in Chargers history to return 2 kickoffs for touchdowns in the same season, and he finished second in the AFC with a 26.4-yard kickoff-return average. But he didn't stop there. In a 49-26 Super Bowl loss to the 49ers, he had 242 yards in kickoff returns, including a 98-yard touchdown. That total established a single-game record and vaulted Coleman into second place in the all-time standings. The 98-yard romp equaled a record set in Super Bowl XVII by Miami's Fulton Walker.

JOHN BIEVER

RAY GUY · SUPER BOWL XVIII

Guy had a lot to live up to from the moment he arrived in the NFL in 1973. He was—and still is—the only pure punter ever selected with a first-round draft pick. Seven Pro Bowl berths in eight seasons helped silence the skeptics. His performance in a 38-9 victory over the Redskins was a reflection of everything that had gone before—he averaged 42.7 yards on 7 punts, three times penned Washington inside its 20-yard line, and, on an errant center snap in the second quarter, made an amazing one-handed, leaping catch. Then, unfazed, he booted the ball 42 yards.

RICHARD RAPHAEL

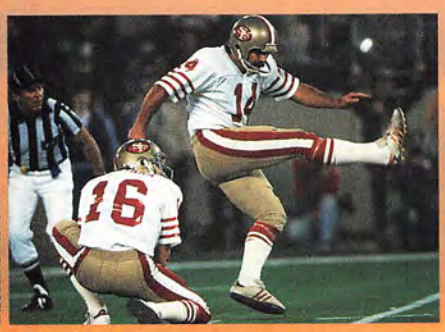
JIM O'BRIEN · SUPER BOWL V

For all of the great kickers to have performed in the game—Jan Stenerud, George Blanda, and Fred Cox among them—only once in Super Bowl history has a game been won by a last-minute field goal. The Colts' O'Brien, a most unlikely candidate, owns the distinction. He had converted only 56 percent of his attempts (19 of 34) during the regular season and even had an extra-point conversion blocked earlier in Super Bowl V. A long-haired rookie stuck with the nickname of "Lassie," he was hardly a proven talent. But with the game tied and only 5 seconds left, his 32-yard kick defeated the Cowboys 16-13.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

FULTON WALKER · SUPER BOWL XVII

Walker had given no indication during the 1982 season that he was primed to explode in the national spotlight. His 21.7-yard average on kickoff returns ranked eleventh in the AFC. But with 1:51 left in the first half of Super Bowl XVII, the Dolphins' specialist rose to the challenge against the Redskins when he gathered in Jeff Hayes's kick and dashed 98 yards to the Super Bowl's first kickoff return for a touchdown. "I started left, broke it back on Roy Foster's block, and went straight up the middle," he said. Miami lost the game 27-17, but through no fault of Walker's. He finished with 190 yards on 4 returns.


MALCOLM EMMONS

RAY WERSCHING · SUPER BOWL XVI

The 49ers' offense took matters into its own hands early in Super Bowl XVI, with touchdown drives of 68 and 92 yards on two of its first three possessions. After that, it turned the scoring over to Wersching. His 4 field goals in 4 attempts (22, 26, 40, and 23 yards) accounted for the team's final 12 points in a 26-21 victory over the Bengals. But that wasn't the extent of his contribution. His perfectly executed squib kick just before halftime eluded the Bengals' Archie Griffin and resulted in a 49ers' recovery at the Cincinnati 4. One play later, after a 5-yard penalty, Wersching converted a 26-yard field goal.

BEST PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

TAK MAKITA

PETE BANASZAK · SUPER BOWL XI

By the time he had arrived at Super Bowl XI, Banaszak was nearing the end of a career that already had seen him score 47 touchdowns in 11 seasons. But if his playing time was diminished—he backed up Mark van Eeghen and Clarence Davis—his impact still was felt. Despite gaining only 370 yards, he scored 5 touchdowns that season. His role was the same in a 32-14 Super Bowl victory over the Vikings: While gaining just 19 yards in 10 carries, he scored 2 touchdowns. His 1-yard score in the first half put the Raiders ahead 16-0 and a 2-yard plunge in the last quarter slammed the door at 26-7.

JOHN BIEVER

RANDY HUGHES · SUPER BOWL XII

It was Hughes's fate to wind up on a Cowboys defense that already was blessed with Charlie Waters and Cliff Harris at the safety positions. "Randy could make most starting defensive teams at either safety," coach Tom Landry said. Although forced to settle for a situational role, Hughes made the most of his time on the field in a 27-10 Super Bowl victory over the Broncos. He helped set up the Cowboys' first touchdown with a first-quarter interception at the Denver 25-yard line. In the second quarter, he returned 2 fumbles for 19 and 2 yards. He also had 2 tackles and 1 pass defensed.

MANNY RUBIO

LAWRENCE McCUTCHEON · SUPER BOWL XIV

From 1973-77, McCutcheon was one of the most feared running backs in the NFL. He *averaged* 1,105 rushing yards per season during that time. But by 1979, his role had been reduced to backup. So when he came in to give Wendell Tyler a breather in the third quarter against the Steelers, no one expected the fireworks that followed. McCutcheon took a handoff, rolled right, and stopped. For the first time in his career, he completed a pass off an option play—a 24-yard touchdown to Ron Smith. The play gave the Rams a temporary 19-17 lead in a game they eventually lost 31-19.

TONY TOMSIC

MAX McGEE · SUPER BOWL I

When Packers wide receiver Boyd Dowler went down with a separated shoulder on the third play of the game, no one was more surprised than McGee, his backup. McGee, a notorious curfew violator, had spent the previous night out on the town, certain that he would be watching the next day's game from the sideline. Pressed into emergency duty, he put on the performance of a lifetime—7 receptions for 138 yards and 2 touchdowns in a 35-10 victory over the Chiefs. McGee, who'd caught only 4 passes during the regular season and who had planned to retire, decided to return for one more season.

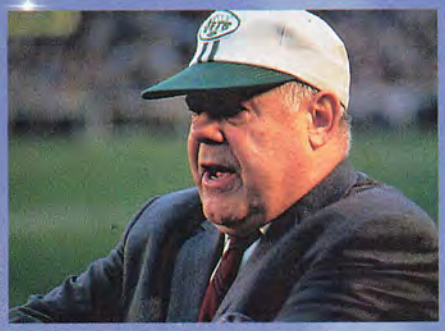
TONY TOMSIC

EARL MORRALL · SUPER BOWL V

Situated behind Johnny Unitas on the Colts' depth chart, Morrall didn't anticipate much activity against the Cowboys. But when the starting quarterback limped off the field with torn rib cartilage in the second quarter, the 36-year-old, 15-year veteran was thrown into the battle. What followed was enough to test his mettle: a 50-yard drive to Dallas's 2 ended with a fourth-down incompletion, and a 55-yard drive to Dallas's 44 ended with a missed field goal. But Morrall, who completed 7 of 15 passes for 147 yards, kept igniting the Colts' offense until they had posted a 16-13 victory.

BEST DIRECTION BY A COACH

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:



TONY TOMSIC

WEEB EWBANK · SUPER BOWL III

The Jets' head coach had more than a little incentive in his Super Bowl debut against the Colts, the team he had coached from 1954-1962. Six years earlier, Baltimore fired him after a 7-7 season. Ewbank sensed the possibility of an upset—the Colts were prohibitive favorites—after reviewing films that showed age had robbed the Colts of some speed. He decided to test Baltimore's secondary and to challenge the Colts' receivers with tight coverage. He made great psychological use of the Jets' underdog role. Their 16-7 victory is considered one of the great upsets in pro football history.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

JOE GIBBS · SUPER BOWL XXVI

Gibbs is one of three coaches—Chuck Noll and Bill Walsh are the others—who owns the distinction of having coached at least three Super Bowl winners. But Super Bowl XXVI made Gibbs special. He became the first coach to accomplish the feat with his third different quarterback. A 37-24 victory over Buffalo marked the occasion, with Mark Rypien following in the footsteps of quarterbacks Joe Theismann and Doug Williams. Among Gibbs's innovative trademarks were the use of multiple tight ends, the single-back offense, and a never-ending assortment of formations and motion.

VIC STEIN

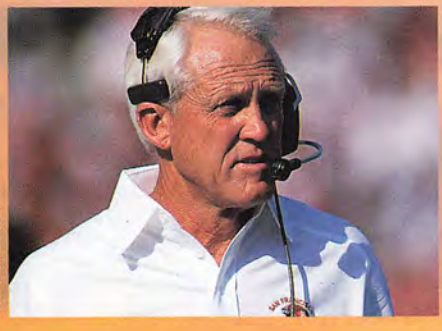
VINCE LOMBARDI · SUPER BOWL I

According to Frank Gifford, who interviewed the Green Bay coach on the field, Lombardi was a bag of nerves before the first Super Bowl. Being entrusted with the reputation of the NFL may have made him a little edgy, but the Chiefs, who were about to be pummeled 35-10, never would have guessed it. Execution and grit—hallmarks of Lombardi teams—were the ingredients that wore down a Chiefs' team that included three players destined for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. After nursing a fragile 14-10 lead at halftime, the Packers exploded for 3 unanswered second-half touchdowns.

VERNON BIEVER

DON SHULA · SUPER BOWL VII

To understand how unappreciated the 1972 Miami Dolphins were, you need consider only this: Their record was 16-0 entering Super Bowl VII, and oddsmakers had made the Redskins the favorites. The Dolphins were a team that dismissed image for substance, with an offense as flashy as a pair of dungarees. The defense was without any "name" players, so it answered to the nickname of "No Name." It was a Shula creation, an operation so well devised that even after starting quarterback Bob Griese was injured, the Dolphins kept winning. Griese returned in time for Super Bowl VII, which Miami won 14-7.



RICHARD MACKSON

BILL WALSH · SUPER BOWL XVI

Perhaps no coach in Super Bowl history went to greater lengths to ensure that his players were relaxed and their psyches intact. Walsh preceded the 49ers into Pontiac, Michigan, disguised himself as a bellman, and greeted the team bus when it arrived at the hotel. "You've got to have fun sometimes," he said. His game-day preparations were equally well planned. He used traps, counter plays, and a short-passing game to jump ahead of the favored Bengals, and he installed a squib kick to neutralize David Verser, a star returner. Largely because of Walsh, the 49ers won their Super Bowl debut 26-21.

BEST GAME

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

VERNON BIEVER

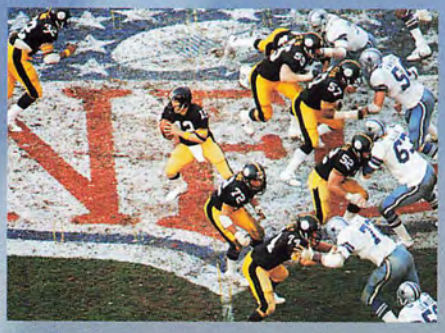
SUPER BOWL III

The NFL's Green Bay Packers had made such easy work of AFL representatives in Super Bowls I and II that this clash was considered a foregone conclusion. Only Jets quarterback Joe Namath, who "guaranteed" a victory three days before the game, seemed to think the Colts could be beaten. What followed was the biggest upset in the history of the game. New York's defense forced 5 turnovers, Namath called plays masterfully, and the Jets, after jumping to a 16-0 lead, coasted to a 16-7 victory. "That one game was perfect testament to the nature of sport," said winning coach Weeb Ewbank.

VERNON BIEVER

SUPER BOWL X

The Steelers and Cowboys represented an intriguing clash in styles—power versus finesse. Moreover, the personalities on each sideline were the stuff of legends. Chuck Noll and Tom Landry were the coaches, Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach the quarterbacks—all destined for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. But the most unlikely aspect of this matchup was that it lived up to expectations. After twice gaining and losing a lead, the Cowboys finally went down with guns blazing. Only when Staubach's last pass was intercepted in the end zone did the Steelers escape with a 21-17 victory.



MANNY RUBIO

SUPER BOWL XIII

There was little doubt during the 1978 season that the two best teams in the NFL were the 12-4 Cowboys and the 14-2 Steelers. The Cowboys led the league in scoring, the Steelers in scoring defense. Both were veteran teams, accustomed to playing in big games. So when the Super Bowl X opponents met in a rematch, an air of anticipation settled over the Orange Bowl. The game featured 7 touchdown passes, a Super Bowl-record 66 points, a furious last-quarter rally by Dallas, and a dropped pass that Jackie Smith will never forget, before the Steelers hung on for another 4-point victory, 35-31.

BOB ROSATO

SUPER BOWL XXIII

Thanks to three lackluster quarters that featured 4 field goals and little else, Super Bowl XXIII seemed destined to be a forgotten footnote in NFL lore. The Bengals, whose only touchdown came on Stanford Jennings's 93-yard kickoff return, led the 49ers 13-6. But an entire day's action was compressed into the final 15 minutes—the 49ers drove 85 yards to tie the score, the Bengals went 46 for a go-ahead field goal, and then Joe Montana led a chilling 92-yard march in the final 3:10. At the end of an 11-play drive that consumed 2:46, John Taylor caught a 10-yard pass for a 20-16 victory.

ROB BROWN

SUPER BOWL XXV

In a game that pitted exact opposites—the Bills' frantic No-Huddle offense versus the Giants' plodding ball-possession scheme—the most pivotal aspect of either team's arsenal turned out to be its kicking game. On a day when their offense controlled the ball for more than 40 minutes and MVP Ottis Anderson rushed for 102 yards, the Giants squeaked ahead 20-19 in the fourth quarter on the strength of Matt Bahr's 21-yard field goal. The Bills gamely fought back, driving to within field-goal range, but Scott Norwood's 47-yard attempt sailed wide right with 4 seconds remaining.

And the Winners Are...

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A QUARTERBACK

JOE NAMATH
SUPER BOWL III

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A RUNNING BACK

JOHN RIGGINS
SUPER BOWL XVII

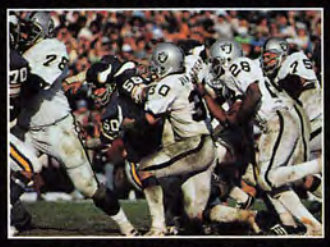
BEST PERFORMANCE BY A WIDE RECEIVER

LYNN SWANN
SUPER BOWL X

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A TIGHT END

DAN ROSS
SUPER BOWL XVI

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN OFFENSIVE LINE



OAKLAND RAIDERS
SUPER BOWL XI

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

RICHARD DENT
SUPER BOWL XX

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A LINEBACKER

ROD MARTIN
SUPER BOWL XV

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A DEFENSIVE BACK

JAKE SCOTT
SUPER BOWL VII

BEST PERFORMANCE BY A SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER

JIM O'BRIEN
SUPER BOWL V

BEST PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

MAX McGEE
SUPER BOWL I

BEST DIRECTION BY A COACH

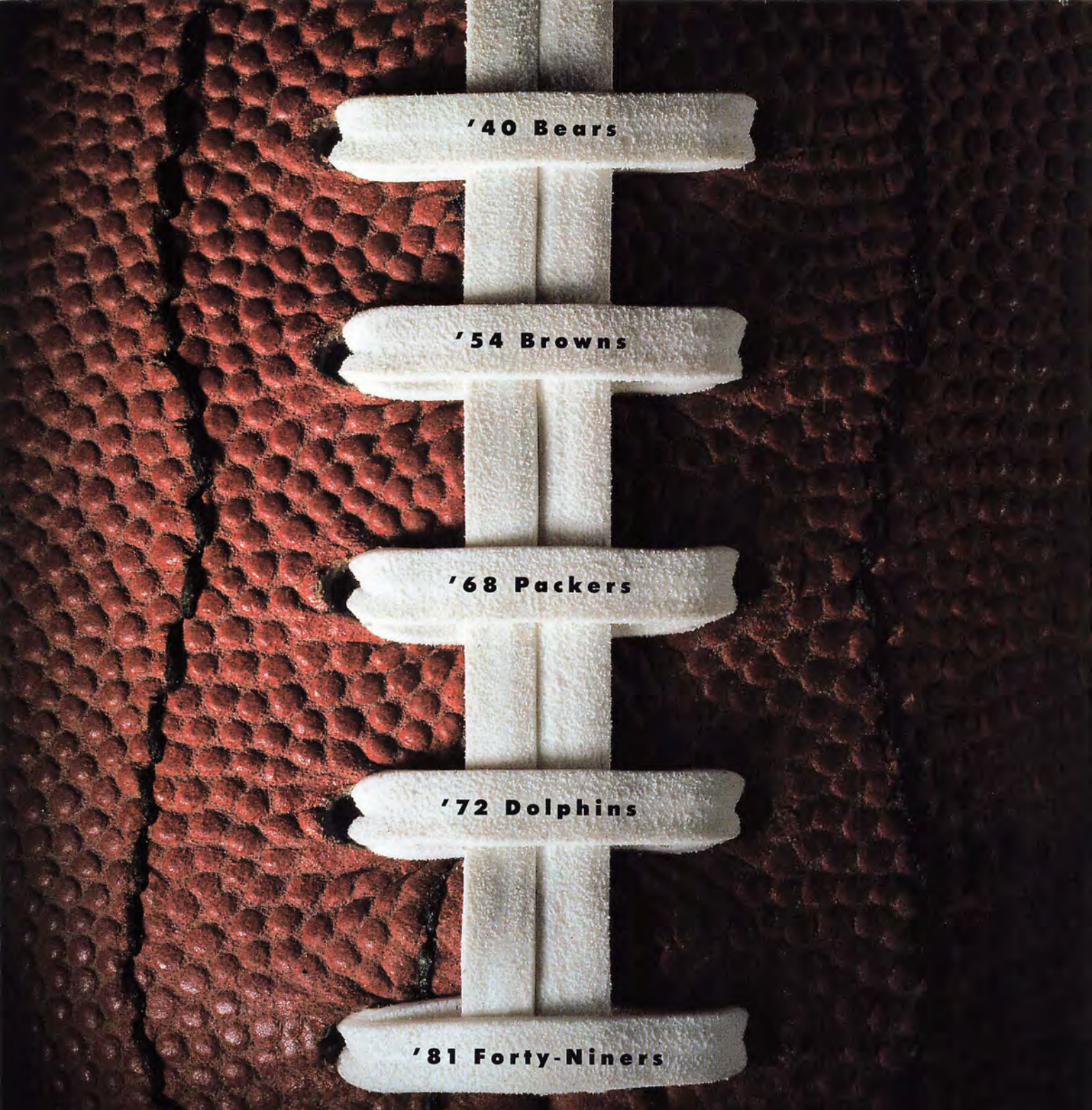
WEEB EWBANK
SUPER BOWL III

BEST GAME

SUPER BOWL XXIII
49ERS 20, BENGALS 16

Congratulations!

THANKS TO THE WINNERS—AND ALL THE OTHER NOMINEES—FOR THE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES THEY HAVE PRODUCED IN THE SUPER BOWL'S FIRST THREE DECADES.



Considering The Performance Of Our Global Finance Team, Maybe It's Time To Add Another Lace.

Only so often in football does a team come along that excels at every aspect of the game. The same can be said in the field of corporate finance, where the NationsBank team continues to help corporate clients achieve their goals through a rare combination of talents – including a strong understanding of clients' businesses, vast knowledge of financial markets, experience in structuring and executing transactions, and a creative approach to providing value-added solutions.

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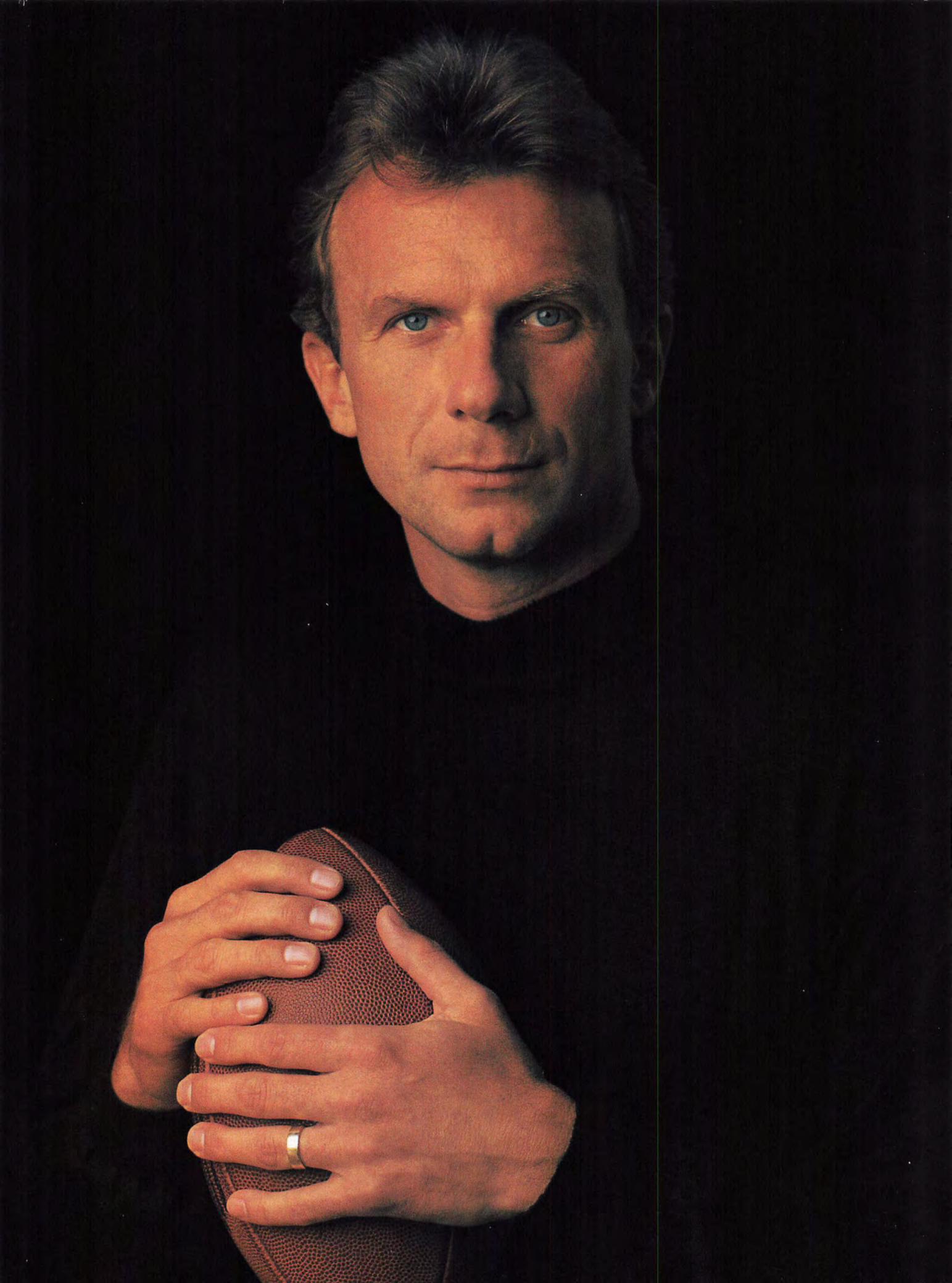


MONTANA

THE KING of COOL

BY SCOTT OSTLER

It is the Friday night before Super Bowl XVI and eastern Michigan is frozen stiff.

The San Francisco 49ers hit Pontiac early in the week and Pontiac hit back, with blizzards and wind-chill temperatures of 50-below.

Joe Montana, who threw a miracle touchdown pass to beat the Cowboys and put the 49ers into their first Super Bowl, is behind the wheel of an NFL courtesy car. Dwight Clark, who caught that pass with the tips of his finger, is riding shotgun.

After dinner, the boys are returning to the team's hotel, but Montana takes a detour. He drives into a mall parking lot. It is dark and empty, a vast sheet of icy blacktop.

Montana punches the accelerator, gives a series of sharp cranks to the steering wheel, and sends the car skidding and spinning in full circles, sliding past light poles, careening into banks of soft snow, a carnival thrill ride that has jumped its tracks.

Coach Bill Walsh has made it clear he wants his players to be loose and have fun while gearing up for the big game, but Clark is pretty sure this isn't what Walsh has in mind.

A Southern lad new to the snow, Clark is scared silly. He braces his hands against the dashboard and stares at Montana, who glances at Clark, laughs with glee, and gives the wheel another spin.

So much for the theory that Joe Montana became the greatest Super Bowl performer of all time by locking himself into a Zen-like trance before games.

There are many other theories: Joe was motivated by fear and insecurity.

Joe was supremely confident.

Joe cared more than anyone else.

Joe cared less than anyone else.

Joe was a space alien who stepped out of a UFO.

This much is clear: Montana had a serious gap in his sports education. He never learned how to choke, and by the time he arrived at his first Super Bowl it was too late to learn.

Joe and the 49ers would win that game, and three more Super Bowls, and Montana would be the game's MVP three times.

Montana's four-game career would stamp him as the NFL's ultimate Super Bowl performer, and maybe the ultimate championship-game guy in any sport.

"He allowed everyone on his team to capture what we all want, to conquer the ultimate moment," says Ronnie Lott, a defensive back on all four of those Super Bowl teams. "But Joe was the only guy to do it routinely."

In four games, a legend was made.

The Best Clutch Player in Super Bowl History Was Just an Extraordinary Joe

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER READ MILLER

SUPER BOWL XVI
January 24, 1982—Pontiac, Michigan
49ers 26, Bengals 21

The most vivid memory I have of Joe Montana the week before his first Super Bowl game is that I have no vivid memory of Joe Montana.

This bland and low-key young man was football's new Mr. Excitement? We media angle-mongers, looking for a bit of swashbuckle from the hot young star with the cool name, were disappointed.

As a subspecies of player, quarterbacks tend to have large personalities, to hold court, to be gold mines of quotes, quips, and controversy. Joe Namath, Joe Theismann, Terry Bradshaw, Jim McMahon, guys such as that would play the media like a very large violin. Not Montana.

He later admitted he was wary of the press, afraid he might be misquoted or accidentally say something that might fire up the opposition. So he talked and talked that week, and said nothing.

Result: Instead of dominating the Super Bowl hype, Montana eased into the game as quietly as a fan sneaking into the stadium without a ticket.

Joe never did talk a good game, and maybe that helps explain why 81 players were drafted ahead of him in 1979. This guy is going to step into an NFL huddle and lead 10 other men into battle?

The Happy Dummies, that's what offensive lineman Randy Cross named this 49ers team, because most of the players were too young and naive to be intimidated by the Super Bowl. To them, this was a bonus game. They were in Pontiac to have fun, and they worked hard at it.

Walsh gave his players a curfew but never bothered to enforce it, assuming incorrectly that the severe weather would limit their adventures. Some of the veterans were alarmed at the kids' loosey-goosey attitude and late hours. Offensive tackle Keith Fahnhorst stood up during a Friday team meeting and suggested that the players self-impose an 11 P.M. curfew for the final two nights.

Rookie cornerback Lott cleared his throat and said, "Look, I think we should just keep doing what we've been doing, because it's working."

And did it really matter? NFL experts agreed that the Bengals had the superior team—bigger, tougher, more talented, more experienced. No amount of sleep by the 49ers was going to bridge those gaps.

The 49ers' only hope was some kind of strange magic, and that's where Joe Montana came in. You couldn't quite write off this team because you couldn't quite get a handle on its quarterback.

Montana had been a third-round draft pick two seasons earlier and, though he started seven games in 1980 and all 16 in '81, he still was regarded as an inconsistent quarterback with a mediocre arm.

But he had a certain poise and ability to make plays, and people were starting to notice. During Super Bowl week Montana was featured on the covers of *Time* ("Super Dreams"), *Newsweek* (with Bengals quarterback Ken Anderson, "Duel of Wits"), and *Sports Illustrated* ("Gunning for Glory").

MANNY RUBIO

Masterminds at work: *The 49ers' offense designed by Bill Walsh (second from right) was a complex puzzle of formations and reads that made mental demands of the quarterback. Montana showed early in his career that he could execute any scheme Walsh could install.*

Joe's teammates still were learning about the quiet kid from Notre Dame. They knew he did not rattle easily. He brought the 49ers back from a 28-point deficit to beat New Orleans in 1980, and there was the NFC Championship Game against Dallas in San Francisco. Was it just luck, or was a trend developing?

The 49ers knew Montana was hungry to play. In a midseason game in which he was struggling, Walsh ordered backup quarterback Guy Benjamin to take over for the next offensive series.

The 49ers' defense intercepted a pass, but Benjamin couldn't find his helmet. While he searched frantically, Montana dashed onto the field, huddled the team, and threw a touchdown pass.

"That's classic Montana," Benjamin says, laughing. "That's how he responded."

MANNY RUBIO

JOHN BIEVER

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Super Bowl Joe: *His first Super Bowl appearance hardly fazed Montana, who stood firm in the face of pressure (top) and signaled his trademark touchdown gesture before celebrating in the locker room with his dad, Joe Sr., and Dwight Clark.*

The 49ers knew their young quarterback's quiet, almost shy off-field personality would change in the heat of battle. Before the NFC title game, Dallas defensive end Ed (Too Tall) Jones had told the media that the Cowboys did not respect the 49ers. That Sunday, Montana pump-faked Jones into the air, zinged a touchdown pass, and jumped into Jones' face screaming, "Respect *that*, [expletive deleted]!"

Ed (Too Tall) Jones had told the media that the Cowboys didn't respect the 49ers. That Sunday, Montana pump-faked Jones into the air, zinged a touchdown pass, and jumped into Jones's face screaming, "Respect that, [expletive deleted]!"

But now Montana was in the Super Bowl, and all previous bets were off. Was the famed touchdown pass to Clark a fluke? Was Montana for real? Could he handle the pressure of sudden fame? Could he respond in the biggest game?

As game day approached, the 49ers tried to get a read on the kid. The only overt sign of leadership was when he suggested that Walsh play a recording of the Kenny Loggins song "This Is It" in the locker room before the game, for inspiration.

Other than that...

"None of us knew for sure how Joe would react in the big game," Keith Fahnhorst says. "You see some players crumble. Some promising young quarterbacks have been destroyed by bad Super Bowl games. Watching Joe that week, you couldn't tell, you weren't sure what you were seeing."

Lott tried to read Montana's eyes, looking for fear or confidence—some sign. He would watch Montana and wonder, "Is he ready?"

On game day, some of the 49ers went to the Silverdome early in taxis, but most of them took the team bus, which got stuck in a monumental traffic jam caused by the motorcade of Vice President George Bush and Secretary of Transportation (ah, the irony) Andrew Lewis.

On the bus, to break the tension, Walsh pretended to listen to the Super Bowl play-by-play on radio, giving his players mock updates from the Silverdome. *Great news: The 49ers, quarterbacked by their equipment manager, have just taken the lead.*

When the bus reached the stadium 20 minutes before pregame warmups, the 49ers didn't have time to think about being nervous. The team was thrilled just to be reunited.

The 49ers opened their Super Bowl era with two long touchdown drives that were perfect examples of the Walsh-Montana chemistry. The 49ers' offense was a mystical jigsaw puzzle of formations and complex quarter-

back reads, more confusing to learn and operate than any other scheme in football. And just a few days before the game, Walsh had added several new wrinkles.

He had discovered that it was almost impossible to overload the football brain of Montana. Walsh knew that if he showed Montana a blueprint of the Eiffel Tower before a game, Joe and his guys would have it built by halftime.

On their first possession, the 49ers marched to a touchdown. The big play was a 14-yard pass off a fake reverse that was installed in the playbook only days before. The 49ers made it 14-0 in the second quarter when Montana threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to running back Earl Cooper, using an unbalanced line that the Bengals had not seen

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

ROB BROWN

because the 49ers had not used it.

In the second half, the Bengals battled back and began overpowering the 49ers. What saved San Francisco, Walsh is convinced, was Montana's poise and absolute refusal to crack. When the 49ers' lead shrank to 6 points early in the fourth quarter, Montana led a field-goal drive that iced the game.

Lott, Fahnhorst, and the other 49ers now knew what kind of quarterback they had on their hands.

The media descended upon Joe Montana, the game's MVP, and he didn't have a lot to say.

SUPER BOWL XIX
January 20, 1985—Stanford, California
49ers 38, Dolphins 16

Many players have risen to an occasion, but few have levitated above it.

A few years after Super Bowl XIX, Montana told me that when he walked onto the Stanford Stadium field, he had felt a strange lightness, as if he were floating above the grass on a cloud.

The roar of the hometown crowd lifted him even higher.

"The only other time I felt the energy of a crowd that strong," he said, "was when I went on stage with Huey Lewis and the News."

That happened at a concert when Montana was coaxed out of the audience to sing back-up on the song "It's Hip To Be Square," which could have been Joe's theme song. Even though he now drove a Ferrari, was married to a beautiful actress/model, and enjoyed heroic status in sophisticated San Francisco, he was still just one of the guys.

In this game, Montana wasn't even supposed to be the hippest quarterback on the field, and that gave him something he had in each of his four Super Bowls—an almost desperate need to prove something.

The three main focuses of media attention the week of Super Bowl XIX were, in no particular order: Dan Marino, Dan Marino, and Dan Marino.

Or so it seemed to the 49ers and to Montana, who quietly seethed.

The Dolphins' amazing second-year quarterback passed for 5,084 yards and 48 touchdowns during the 1984 regular season, both NFL records. Montana logged a mere 3,630 yards and 28 touchdowns.

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

All the buzz was over young Marino. The other 49ers loved it. They knew Joe would be inspired because he was almost maniacally competitive.

Poised performer: *If Montana looked unperturbed in the 49ers' locker room before Super Bowl XIX (above), he looked unchanged during the game as he sliced apart the Dolphins' defense. His 331 passing yards set a Super Bowl record, after which he shared a congratulatory hug with running back Roger Craig, his favorite target that day with 7 catches for 77 yards and 2 touchdowns.*

All the buzz was over young Marino.

"Maybe you're selling our defense short," was all Montana said to the press in response to Marinomania.

The other 49ers loved it. They knew Joe would be inspired because he was almost maniacally competitive.

Safety Tom Holmoe tells of going to a team party at Montana's home and watching Joe play a teammate in a friendly tennis match that became a life-and-death struggle.

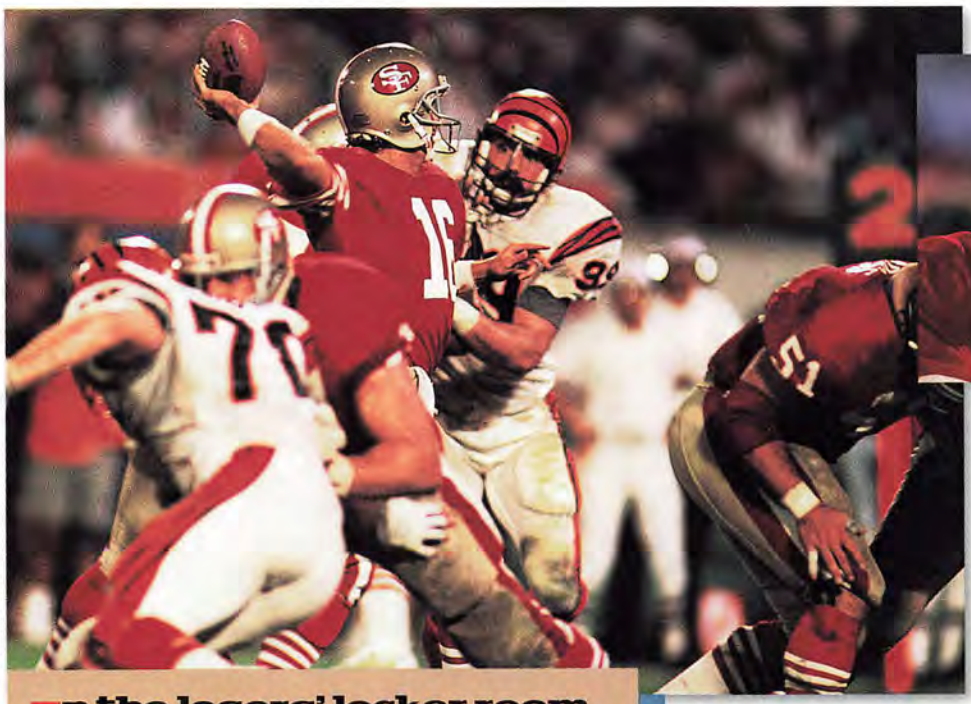
Now Montana felt the unspoken challenge of his rival quarterback. He was simmering, wondering why nobody seemed to notice that he and Walsh had the 49ers' offense polished and clicking with a precision that made a Rolex watch look like a high school metal-shop project.

No way Montana could match Marino's cannon-for-an-arm strength, but passing is a lot like real estate—location is everything. Montana once told Dwight Clark that when Clark had his back turned to a defensive back, he (Joe) would throw the ball a few inches to the right or left of Clark's midsection, to indicate the direction Clark should spin to elude the defender.

Clark laughed, assuming Montana was kidding.

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

Owner and franchise: *Edward DeBartolo, Jr., 49ers owner, greets his best-known employee after Super Bowl XIX.*



RICHARD MACKSON

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

The Drive: *Surrounded by havoc and turmoil when he wasn't receiving advice from the coach's box (above), Montana put together a spine-tingling drive in the final 3:10 of the game and marched 92 yards to a game-winning touchdown in a 20-16 victory over the Bengals in Super Bowl XXIII.*

In the losers' locker room (after Super Bowl XXIII), Bengals wide receiver Cris Collinsworth offered a simple explanation: "Montana is not human."

Nobody could throw a football that accurately, could they? Montana wasn't kidding.

The 49ers not only had Montana, they had the strongest team they would field in the decade, so they entered the game with what Randy Cross calls "justifiable arrogance."

Marino was impressive, leading the Dolphins to advantages of 3-0 and 10-7. But his cleats were in the turf, while Montana floated above, passing for a Super Bowl-record 331 yards. He completed 24 of 35 passing attempts for 3 touchdowns and ran the ball 5 times for 59 yards.

On one play, Clark was Montana's fourth option as a receiving target. Clark drew tight coverage running downfield, so he wasn't even looking for the pass that nearly hit him in the head. Somehow he caught the ball.

"When I came back to the huddle," Clark says, "Joe was laughing. He knew he'd surprised me."

Surprised a lot of people. Montana was the game's most valuable player.

SUPER BOWL XXIII

January 22, 1989—Miami, Florida
49ers 20, Bengals 16

Sportswriters love a good soap opera, and now we had one before Super Bowl XXIII.

There was tension and turmoil on the 49ers. Walsh had hinted that Montana, at 32, was nearing the end of his career and soon would need to be phased out, especially considering the emergence of backup Steve Young as a potential star.

Walsh later confided that if Young had been able to beat the Cardinals while subbing for the injured Montana in November, he would have replaced Montana as the starting quarterback. The 49ers lost the game by 1 point.

Joe saw the vultures circling, waiting for his football carcass. This would have been a dramatic game for him to make a statement regarding the true nature of greatness, but the 49ers were so much better than the Bengals that it seemed doubtful any Montana heroics would be necessary.

Or that was the considered opinion of the experts of the media, who are trained to know these things.

Supreme confidence served the 49ers well in two previous Super Bowls, but this time it backfired in an ugly way. As time ticked away, the 49ers found themselves in a *Mission Impossible* situation:

With 3:10 left in the fourth quarter, they trailed the Bengals 16-13, taking possession on their own 8-yard

BY THE NUMBERS Montana vs. Other Standouts

Player, Team (record)	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Passer Rating
Joe Montana, San Francisco (4-0)	4	122	83	68.0	1,142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A. Raiders (2-0)	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Troy Aikman, Dallas (2-0)	2	57	41	72.0	480	8.42	4	7.0	45t	1	1.8	113.2
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh (4-0)	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Bart Starr, Green Bay (2-0)	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas (2-2)	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4

line. That scraping sound you heard was the Bengals' "SWAT Team" defense digging in.

On the 49ers' sideline, Ronnie Lott told himself, "No way Joe can do it," but that was simply Lott's mental game. In a hopeless situation he would utter that phrase and challenge Montana to prove him wrong.

The 49ers huddled in their own end zone to wait out a long TV time out. Harris Barton, the excitable second-year tackle, was verging on meltdown.

"I'm nervous and tight, and I'm goin' off," Barton recalls. "I'm telling everyone, 'We gotta win! We gotta win!' Joe says, 'Hey, H., look down there above the far corner of the end zone. There's John Candy!'

"I look and sure enough, there's John Candy, eating popcorn." The tension seemed to leak out of the huddle as 11 players turned to watch the fat comedian enjoying a snack. Then the 49ers began to work their way downfield like a marching band.

With 1:22 left and the ball on the Bengals' 35, the pressure got to Montana. His breathing became labored as he tried to shout plays and signals above the roar of the crowd. He feared he would hyperventilate.

He threw the ball away, his only incompletion on the 92-yard drive. After a 10-yard penalty, he passed 27 yards to Jerry Rice, 8 yards to Roger Craig, and, to win it, a 10-yard dart to John Taylor for a touchdown with 34 seconds remaining.

If you had to pull three minutes out of Montana's career to present as credentials for admission to Valhalla, these would be the three.

Joe's totals for the day: 23 completions in 36 attempts for 357 yards and 2 touchdown passes, both in the fourth quarter.

In the losers' locker room, wide receiver Cris Collinsworth offered a simple explanation:

"Montana is not human."

SUPER BOWL XXIV
January 28, 1990—New Orleans
49ers 55, Broncos 10

It's fascinating to watch the evolution of a player and a team over a decade.

Montana had gone from a beach-apartment guy to a land baron who had a reproduction of the Sistine Chapel's ceiling mural painted in his living room.

He had gone from a carefree, approachable dude to a businessman walled in by responsibilities of wealth and fame. Want to see Joe? Make an appointment.

He carried around enough superstar baggage to require a forklift. The week before the game, one of Montana's two ex-wives said nasty things about him in a supermarket tabloid. A television reporter fed Montana to the rumor mill with unsubstantiated allegations that the league was covering up knowledge of drug abuse by three NFL quarterbacks, not named.

Montana's response: "Why should I worry about a bunch of crap?"

San Francisco fans, who had been so giddy over a first Super Bowl victory, now were spoiled by success, and had helped drive Walsh into retirement.

Only a few battered warriors remained from the original Happy Dummies.

MONTANA'S SUPER BOWL RECORDS

Most Passes Completed, Career (83)
Most Consecutive Completions, Game (13 vs. Denver in Super Bowl XXIV)
Most Yards Gained Passing, Career (1,142)
Most Yards Gained Passing, Game (357 vs. Cincinnati in Super Bowl XXIII)
Most Touchdown Passes, Career (11)
Lowest Percentage, Passes Had Intercepted, Career (40 attempts) (tied-0.00, 122-0)
Most Attempts, Without Interception, Game (tied-36)

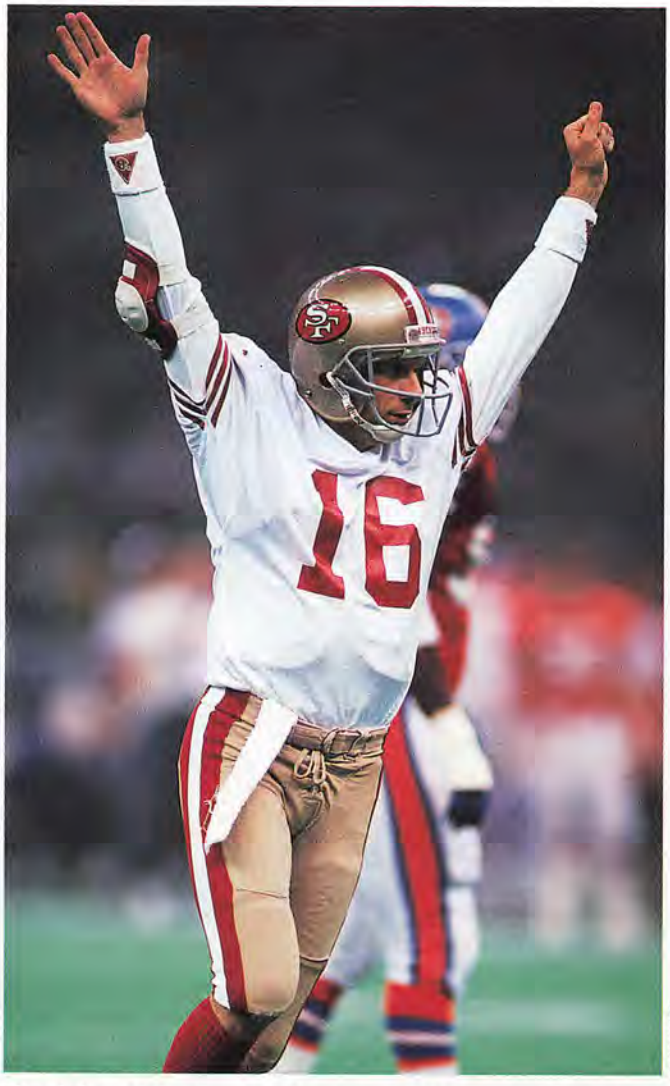
Montana had played his greatest regular season ever and was voted the league's MVP, but he knew age was chasing him, and he was determined to prove he still was Joe Montana.

By now, we geniuses of the media finally had it nailed down: Joe was under siege; the opponent was in deep trouble.

In the Superdome, TV cameras were set up in each locker room to record the postgame scene, and when the 49ers arrived for the game, Montana put on a headset and pretended to be a camera operator.

"I've never seen anyone so on as he was against Denver," says Dwight Clark. "The right reads, the accuracy of the passes, just phenomenal."

It was his final great Super Bowl concert: 22 comple-



RON VESELY

Touchdown: *The familiar Montana touchdown signal was on frequent display in a 55-10 victory over the Broncos.*

tions in 29 passing attempts, 297 yards, 5 touchdowns, a third most-valuable-player award.

•

Four games, four unique challenges, four 49ers triumphs, and four near-perfect performances by Joe Montana.

His Super Bowl statistics: 122 pass attempts, 83 completions, 1,142 yards, 11 touchdowns, and, against the most dogged and desperate defenses the AFC could throw at him, zero interceptions.

Terry Bradshaw led the Steelers to four Super Bowl victories in four tries, but he didn't have Montana's numbers. Roger Staubach threw 8 touchdown passes in his four Super Bowls but was intercepted 4 times and the Cowboys were 2-2.

"Clearly Joe was the best quarterback who ever played, no question," Walsh says. "Terry was a magnificent quarterback, but I don't think he could have done what Joe did—take that first band of young guys, with so little firepower, and win it all."

Along with the obvious physical skills, what Montana brought to the big game was an almost unearthly cool, something almost hypnotic and certainly contagious. To a man, the 49ers say they handled the pressure better because of the confidence radiating from their quarterback.

"The more pressure, the calmer he was," Fahnhorst says, "and it would rub off on everyone. To see him perform so well under pressure helped us cope, and made us all expect more out of ourselves."

Montana's father, Joe, Sr., says his son learned to be cool under fire when he was in grammar school and played on a highly competitive all-star traveling basketball team, coached by Joe, Sr.

But Joe's dad searches his memory and can't come up with even one instance of his son folding under pressure, not even back in the very beginning of his athletic career.

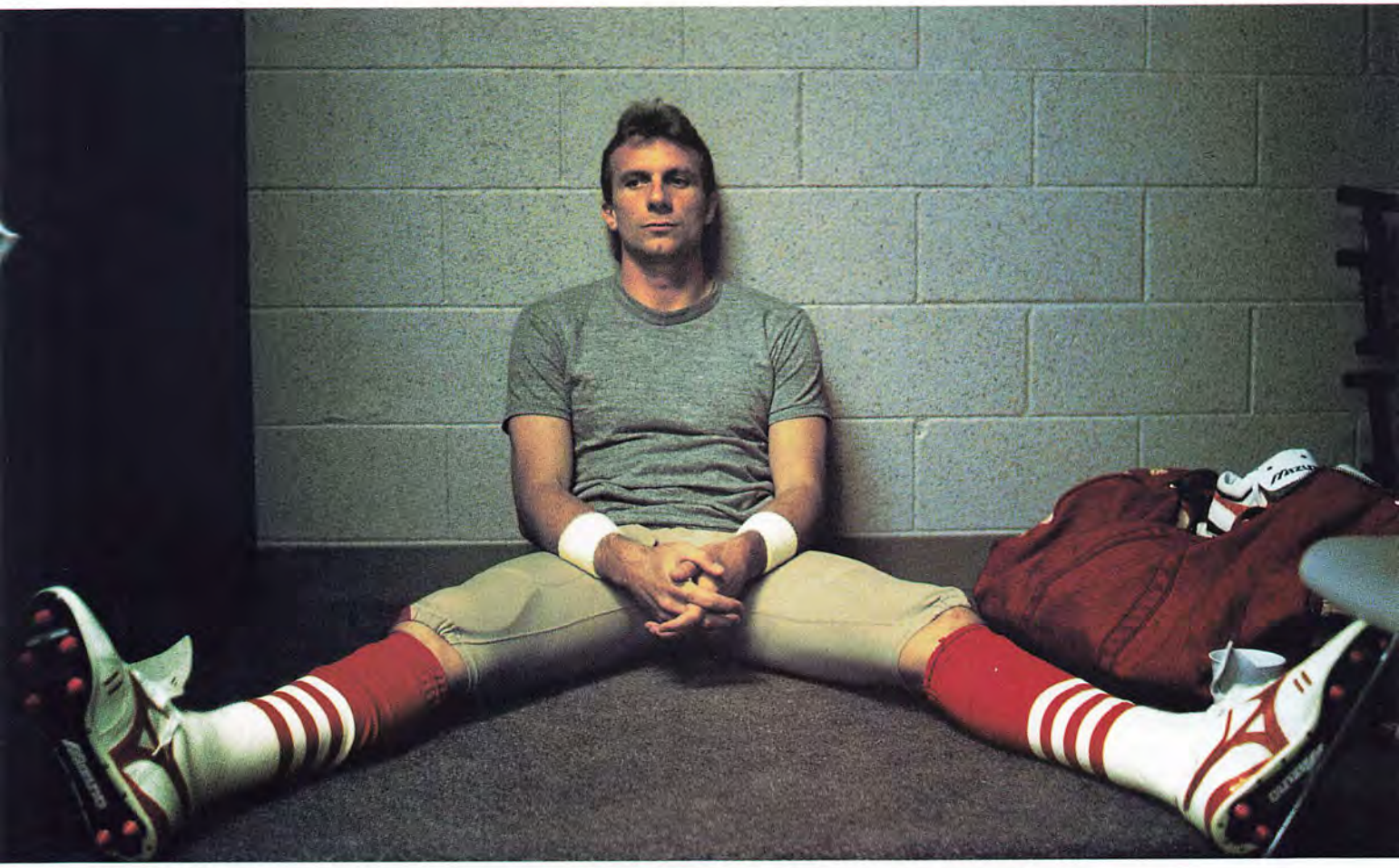
So it seems that young Joe didn't so much *learn* to deal with pressure, but that he was born with the knack.

"It's simple," Montana's pal Huey Lewis says. "It can be overanalyzed, but it's like an eleven-year-old kid playing ball in the street, loving each play, and each play is its own game. He's not thinking of results. He doesn't care about the score or an interception. He just throws because now the next play is all that matters."

Harris Barton more or less supports that theory. "Joe went out to have a good time. Every game was like a high school game to him." Ronnie Lott adds, "Sometimes a guy's just a normal guy, but he's got a Microsoft brain."

Maybe the reason Montana was the anti-sound bite, the man without a colorful quote, was that he was trying to tell us something. It might have sounded like this:

"There's nothing profound to say. It's just a football game."



All alone: *According to Bill Walsh, there is no dispute. "Clearly," he says, "Joe was the best quarterback who ever played."*

MICHAEL ZAGARIS

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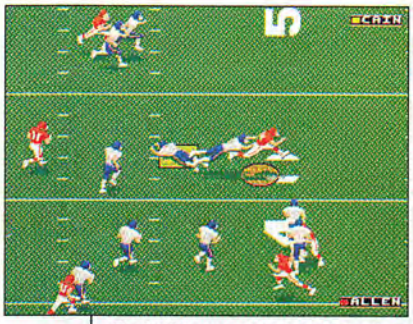

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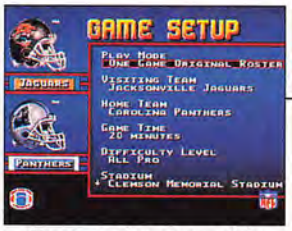

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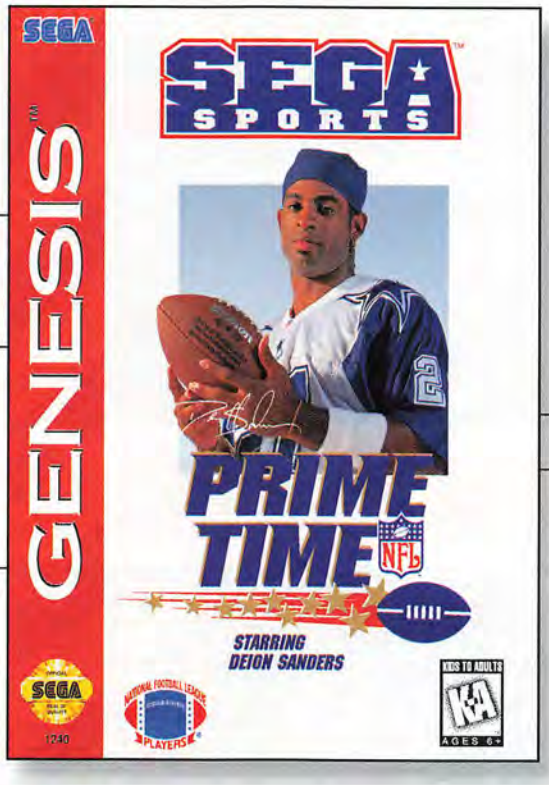

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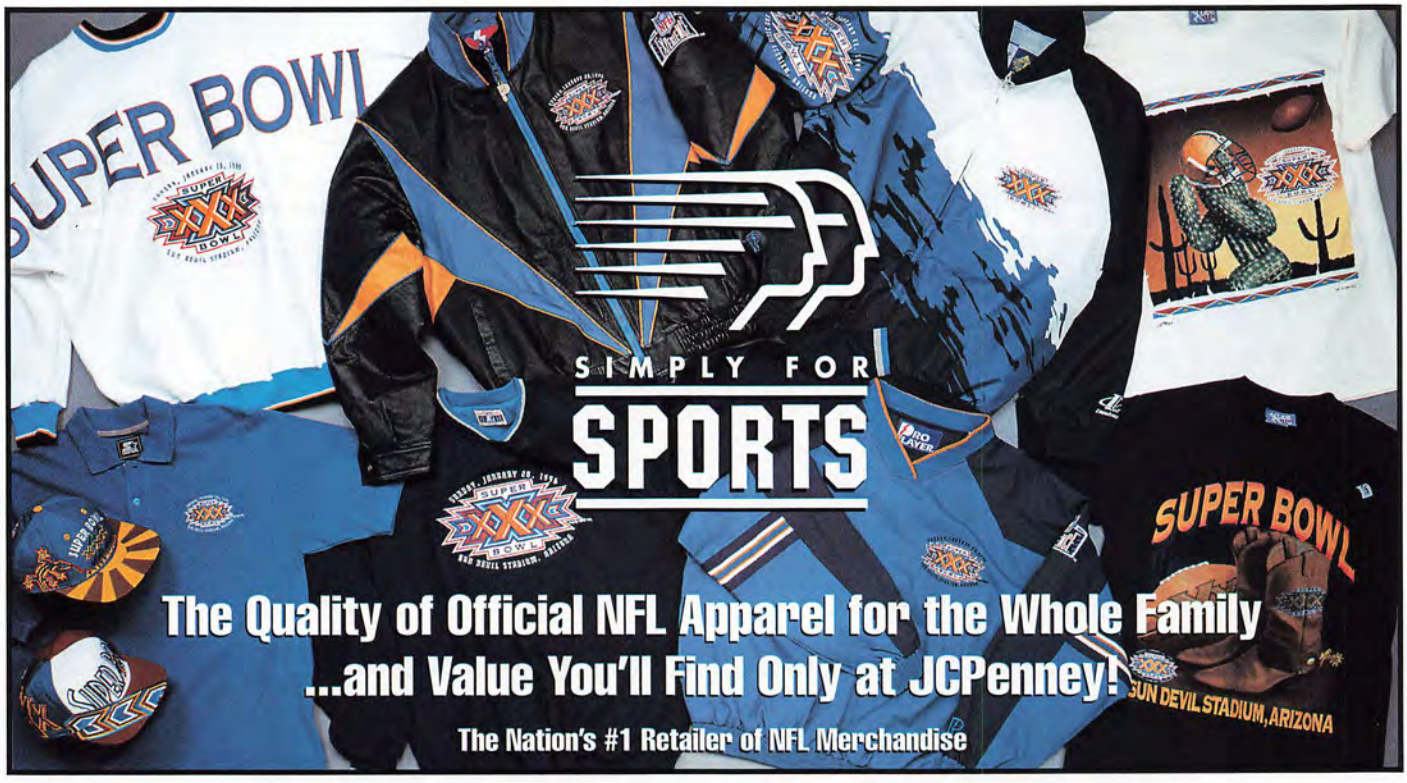
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ROBERT JAMES WALLER

Six Men in the Big Empty

October cool at sunrise, nine hours back. In the 80s now by midafternoon, and the high-desert light is incandescent even through frosted windows. Smell of sweat, old and new, in the cramped locker room.

Band playing out on the field. Fight song filtering through the walls, the melody made eternal by Notre Dame with the words tailored to fit us. Ready to make common cause, we have transformed from individuals into a single mind called team. We are a bowstring that has been pulled back day by day through the week just past, the bow now arched to its snapping point, until we have come to hate the very name of Fort Davis, to loathe the soul and essence of that pretty mountain town lying some 60 miles northeast of us.

Well, except for me. I'm having a little trouble generating hate, but in an effort to please the coach and be one of the team, I'm trying. I've been trying all week and working harder on it since I got up this morning. Actually, I'm thinking mostly about Francie, my month-old filly clawed by a mountain lion two days ago. Her right foreleg is chewed up pretty bad, but my dad nailed the lion with his old 30-30 about five seconds before Francie would have been buzzard meat. It was a heck of a shot, considering twilight and corral fences, not to mention the dust and excitement and all.

Silence for 10 minutes. We sit, heads down, forearms on knees and hands clenched. Someone goes to the water fountain, another to the toilet. Tension approaches agony —God, release this arrow and let the Marathon Mustangs go forth on our flight of destruction to waste and ravage those pitiful Fort Davis Indians, those frauds who have the cheek and gall to label themselves football players.

The band rolls into its fourth iteration of the fight song. It's time. Coach claps his hands once. "Let's go." Scrape of cleats on the concrete floor, and the Marathon, Texas, six-man football team is launched into the pure light of a high desert afternoon.

Out comes Sammy Cavness. Comes next Jesus Estrada, our quarterback. After them, Jones and Aguilar. Then Garcia, Thompson…and the rest, all 10 of us. Including me, Delmore Rake, the last man out.

Okay, okay, I know you're saying, "Who?…Delmore Rake? What kind of a name is that?" Stop laughing, it's my name. In the way of the old Smucker's jam commercial, being saddled with a name like Delmore Rake means you've got to be good. Problem was, I wasn't. I didn't even like playing football. At 5 feet 2 inches and 97 pounds in my fourteenth year, plus having a bad case of slow, I didn't figure football was my game.

My dad didn't either. "Son, I believe the game is above yawl's bend, beyond your huckleberry, in a manner of speakin'. Along with the possibility of gettin' yawl's lamp blowed out, I've seen yawl run, and I don't believe yawl could catch a fat man with his britches down. Besides, we've got plenty to do here on the ranch without yawl draggin' in every day at seven o'clock, too tired to help."

But in Marathon, Texas, in 1965, if you weren't playing football, you didn't exist. The pressure was enormous to go out for the team, there being only 20 or so boys in the entire last four grades. So all hands and the cook were expected to rise when the call for players was issued. If you didn't, you were assigned names I can't repeat here, and you were more likely to be the object of physical beatings.

My dad, talking on and on about working cattle instead of lollygagging around a football field, wouldn't buy me proper shoes, so I had to practice in a pair of old sneakers. On game days, one of the junior high boys loaned me his high-tops with hard rubber cleats, the real thing. When everyone else had selected his equipment furnished by the school, I'd been left with pawing through salvage.

My thigh pads draped over my knees until the coach showed me how to tape them up, but they still jiggled a lot. Worse, the only shoulder pads among the leftovers were so big they lopped down to my elbows. My mother took several tucks in the number "49" jersey and cuffed the sleeves under so they didn't extend beyond my fingertips anymore. With my helmet in place, which had a way of resting on my shoulder pads and not sitting quite flat on my head, I had the appearance of some weird miniature robot from the old sci-fi comic books. Overall, and looking back, it was…well, pathetic.

But I was on the squad and in the program, which listed my number, age, height, weight, and grade in school: 49, Delmore Rake, 14, 5' 2", 97, Grade 9. The program also said I was a defensive back, though I wasn't sure what that meant when it came right down to it.

One of the seniors said I should be called Acorn, that being the name in those days for smaller folks, which he said would make me Acorn Rake on the program. The coach told the young man to hobble his lip and take three extra laps around the field at the conclusion of practice. Coach needed every warm body he could muster, including me, in my floppy thigh pads and sneakers.

This was the world of West Texas six-man football. Invented by one Mr. Stephen Epler in 1933 when he was

PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION BY DALE SIZER

short of players up in Chester, Nebraska, the game spread like mesquite across the far, dry land of the high desert, where the towns are small and the spaces huge. We practically had to travel the continent for our games. To make a night game at Fort Hancock over by El Paso, we loaded on a school bus at noon and arrived back home at 4 A.M.

Six-man football is a little different. Three backs, two ends, and a center. A slightly shorter and narrower field, and everybody's an eligible receiver. There's also the so-called mercy rule, where if one team gets up by 45 points, the game's finished. There's some other differences, too, but the overall result is a wide-open contest, the best elements of basketball and track stewed together with the normal blocking and tackling and passing. Scores such as 69-40 are common. If it sounds a bit ragtag, that'd be wrong. There's hard hitting and smart blocking in six-man, just as you find in the 11-man game. The players take it seriously. So do the small towns.

Not many who play six-man go on to college ball or the pros; the game has just enough dissimilarities with 11-man to make the transition difficult. And compared to the big-time football played in Odessa and Midland, it's hard to get noticed by scouts. Jack Pardee from Christoval and a couple others pulled it off, but that's all. Yet, watching two fine six-man teams go at it, you begin to think it's a great idea.

...the game spread like mesquite across the far, dry land of the high desert, where the towns are small and the spaces huge.

So Mustangs was our name and six-man was our game, and we were ready to play it on a Friday afternoon in Marathon. We hit the field, me picking up my stride as we passed the concession stand operated by the PTA. Lucinda Gonzales, who was also in ninth grade, was helping out in there, and I thought she was the prettiest thing I'd ever seen on earth, along with Francie, my filly.

The stands were packed. Around 200 people had paid a dollar each to see us take on Fort Davis. When the team played at home, Fridays were like a medieval festival in Marathon. People drove to the field early in the morning to secure a good place, backing their pickups almost onto the field and parking there. Later, they'd unfold lawn chairs and set them in the rear of the pickups.

Finally, the band got off the field, Sammy Cavness mumbling something about them looking like Santy Ana's army in their uniforms. Vance Jones kicked off barefoot. Elias Dutchover tried to get it back upfield for Fort Davis, but fumbled. Sammy covered it, Manuel Garcia ripped off 18 yards for us, and Jones barreled over for a touchdown on the following snap. It went on that way. We pulled further ahead, and I started to fret I might get in the game and wondered what I'd do if I did. Not to worry; the coach knew better and left me alone by the cheerleaders and the water bucket.

I played three times that year. Once I went in as a running back, but Jesus Estrada gave the ball to Thompson who bolted 50 yards for a score, putting us up by 45, and the mercy rule was invoked. The second time, I became fascinated by a black-throated sparrow hopping around on the field. While I was admiring the sparrow's moxie, the other team threw a pass right by me for a touchdown.

I had one moment of glory, though it was the next thing to accidental. Balmorhea had this big halfback whose name I've forgotten, 220 pounds and fast, not to mention mean. Coach inserted me at defensive back only because two players were momentarily injured, and I'd drifted too near him while trying to get a better view of Lucinda in the concession stand. I stood out there terrified, hoping for a Balmorhea fumble or something. No luck. Handoff to the big hombre, around end and straight down the sideline he came, dusting trail with huge thighs pumping and looking like a berserk range bull headed for a touchdown. By instinct more than desire, I angled in his direction, all the while thinking, "Dad was right, Dad was right...." I was also thinking: "I hit him, I'm sausage."

But I caught my cleats in a gopher hole, stumbled, and fell in the bull's path. His right toe whacked into my hip pad, and he went down as if he'd been poleaxed. The coach called it a "gutsy play."

I gave up football after that year. My dad had a mild stroke, so everyone understood I had serious ranch work to do and left me alone. In time, I became a pretty decent bronco rider, which allowed me to wear big silver belt buckles I'd won in local rodeos. And somehow the name Delmore Rake sounded different coming out of the chute than it did coming out of the locker room.

The team on which I played for a season laid some track, though. In the late '60s and early '70s, under three different coaches, Marathon made five consecutive trips to the Texas six-man championships and won two of them. In 1976, short of six-man teams to play, the coach scheduled eight games against 11-man teams, all on the road because the home field couldn't be lengthened and widened. And Marathon won every one of them before reverting to six-man for the playoffs.

In the sum and total, what can be made of this? What did I bring away from the table that long freshman year in an ill-fitting uniform? Nothing I can lay my hands on.

Still, once every autumn when my wife is busy with something on a Friday night, Jack the border collie and I take the pickup and drive across the big empty of West Texas to whatever six-man game we can find.

I look over at Jack and say, "Mr. Pardee, it's a long way from here to the Super Bowl." But then I start thinking, everything's a long way from the Super Bowl.

Jack howls when the fans honk truck horns after an especially good play. Other than that, he and I grin at each other and eat popcorn, watching the game Stephen Epler invented 63 years ago, one of the best games that ever came to be. No dreams of the pros, none of that. Just some sweet passes, hard running, and lots of touchdowns. A game sized for small towns and small-town kids whose yellow school buses travel the big empty out here in search of someone to play.

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DANCING

TEN YEARS AGO, AN UNFORGETTABLE TEA

Mike Singletary was furious. The Bears' middle linebacker actually was jumping up and down, like a cartoon father scolding his son. Any moment, a balloon with the symbols "#@&#!" was sure to pop up from his helmet.

His defense had given up a first down.

It stood to reason the New England Patriots would make one sooner or later. No team goes a whole Super Bowl without a first down. As it was, 4:06 remained in the first half, and the Bears already led 20-3 after allowing a zero-yard field-goal drive. Chicago's defense looked impressive in the same way the Grand Canyon looks deep. But the Bears' defense was supposed to be better than impressive. That was the essence of their 1985 season.

They were confident, dominant, and prominent—drums and sousaphones making music among flutes and violins. Their brassy and sassy 18-1 season was a triumph of pride over propriety and instinct over etiquette. They grabbed opponents by the throats and fans by their hearts. At once lovable and contemptible, playful and pitiless, they fashioned for themselves the improbable niche of unbeatable underdogs as they sliced through the NFL.

A decade ago, during the first quarter of Super Bowl XX, the players had an "amazing feeling," defensive lineman Dan Hampton says, one they had experienced in so many games. "It wasn't whether or not we were going to win but 'How bad can we embarrass this bunch?' It may sound crude and rude and unsports-

BEARS

BY KEVIN LAMB

PHOTOS BY TONY TOMSIC, AL MESSERSCHMIDT, JOHN MCDONOUGH, JOHN E. BIEVER AND VERNON BIEVER.

M SHUFFLED OFF WITH THE SUPER BOWL

manlike, but we knew winning was a foregone conclusion."

The Bears set Super Bowl records for points and margin of victory by beating the Patriots 46-10. Earlier that January, their new and notorious 46 defense had been the first in history to score consecutive playoff shutouts.

When the defense held opponents to 27 points in one six-game stretch, it scored just as many on returns and safeties at the same time. Over the course of three successive games, during which they turned their offense over to their second-string quarterback, the Bears outscored opponents 104-3. For the season, they outscored opponents by 258 points, the biggest differential since Don Shula's 1968 Colts went 13-1.

But the Bears were different. They matched successes with sideshows.

"That's what made us such a unique team," strong safety Dave Duerson says. "We were bigger than life, really."

The ball carrying of rookie defensive tackle William (Refrigerator) Perry was more celebrated than that of halfback Walter Payton, who set an NFL record (since broken) with nine consecutive 100-yard games. Pro Bowl quarterback Jim McMahon was better known for his haircuts, head butts, and headbands than his passing. Coordinator Buddy Ryan's innovative defense brought barely more

Bullish Bears: *The Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears were characterized by colorful, outspoken personalities, including (from left): Jim McMahon, William (Refrigerator) Perry, Mike Singletary, and head coach Mike Ditka.*

The Bears were so brazen, they recorded "The Super Bowl Shuffle" before Thanksgiving, then taped the video the day after their only loss. At halftime of the Super Bowl, nearly the entire Superdome crowd was stomping and singing along with the rap song.

attention than his needling and knocking of Mike Ditka, who became both coach of the year and the people's preacher—a cross between John Wayne and Billy Graham—but one who stood loudly and largely for hard work, tough attitudes, and nearly anything Madison Avenue wanted to sell.

So many images made headlines and history. Perry was trampling tacklers on touchdown runs and blocks before the use of linemen in the backfield was commonplace. The sports marketing world hadn't even sent its first quarterback to Disneyland when "The Super Bowl Shuffle" was winning a Grammy and trailing only Michael Jackson's "Thriller" in video sales. The Bears' defense was barking at opponents before anyone used "taunting" and "rule book" in the same sentence.

Nearly a decade later, "Da Bears" still were celebrated in a popular skit on *Saturday Night Live*, and the 1985 Bears still cast a shadow on all their successors. "I think people today, at least in Chicago, can rattle off the lineups for the '85 team more readily than they can for today's team," says Gary Fencik, the team's free safety in 1985.

The Bears were so popular, all-time rushing leader Payton, a player who was en route to the Hall of Fame, was just another star in the media galaxy. The hotshot quarterback played straight man to the rookie defensive lineman on a national TV commercial. The offensive line had its own hot-selling poster, with the linemen dressed as Blues Brothers. Even third-string quarterback Mike Tomczak had a radio show.

They were so brazen, they recorded "The Super Bowl Shuffle" before Thanksgiving, then taped the video the day after their only loss. At halftime of the Super Bowl, nearly the entire Superdome crowd was stomping and singing along with the rap song, the proceeds of which went to charity.

The Super Bowl Shuffle

We are the Bears' Shufflin' Crew,
Shufflin' on down, doin' it for you.
We're so bad, we know we're good,
Blowin' your mind like we knew we would.

You know we're just struttin' for fun,
Struttin' our stuff for everyone.
We're not here to start no trouble,
We're just here to do the Super Bowl Shuffle.

They were so confident that when the Los Angeles Rams won the coin toss and elected to receive in the NFC Championship Game, defensive co-captain Fencik started clapping at midfield. So certain of their success was Ditka that he didn't hesitate in letting Perry try a halfback pass in the Super Bowl. The score was 3-3 at the time, and the situation was on second-and-goal from the 5. Perry was sacked and never got the pass away.

They were so demanding, the offensive linemen often screamed at one another while they lined up for a conversion. Even after they had scored a touchdown, they sounded as if no one had done anything right. "The other teams couldn't believe it," guard Kurt Becker said at the time.

They were controversial: Within minutes after the Super Bowl victory, some defensive players treated Ryan like a second head coach and carried him off the field; in postgame interviews, McMahon groused that Payton, not Perry, should have gotten the call to score the last touchdown; and Ditka criticized the writers who selected defensive end Richard Dent over McMahon as the game's most valuable player.

They were competitive: Before a nationally televised Thursday night game, Minnesota coach Bud Grant bragged about how smartly his team stood at attention during the National Anthem, so the Bears not only stood at attention, but also slapped their right hands over their hearts. "I don't ever want to be upstaged in anything in life," Ditka said.

They were so dramatic: Prior to the game against the Vikings, McMahon had spent two nights in traction and didn't practice, so Ditka said he wouldn't play. Midway through the third quarter, with McMahon badgering Ditka and the Bears trailing by 8 points, the coach relented. McMahon's first play was a 70-yard touchdown pass against a

NFL PHOTOS

Bruise Brothers: *If the offensive linemen were unheralded, they were not bashful. From left: Tom Andrews, Mark Bortz, Tom Thayer, Keith Van Horne, Jay Hilgenberg, Kurt Becker, Andy Frederick, Stefan Humphries, and Jim Covert.*

blitz. His next play was a 25-yard touchdown pass. Later, he completed a 43-yard touchdown pass. The Bears went on to win the game 33-24.

"When he came in, it was very loud in the stadium," tight end Emery Moorehead says. "Jim said, 'Quiet, quiet, quiet. We're going to do this, do that.' Then the first play kind of surprised me. Next play, it's like, 'Whoa, we're back.' And then the third play: 'We're the *Bears*, man.' That was unbelievable."

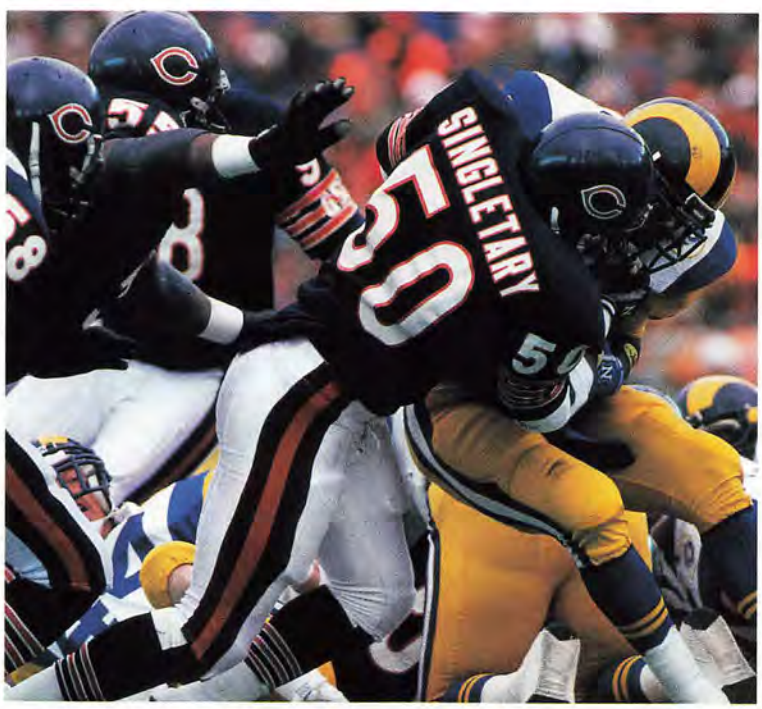
They seemed almost blessed. Just as linebacker Wilber Marshall was returning a fumble 52 yards for the clinching touchdown of the 24-0 victory over the Rams in the NFC Championship Game, big soft snowflakes started falling like confetti. "Divine intervention," Duerson says. "Those things just don't happen."

Ten years later, that remains the most memorable moment to the players. "You're running down toward the end zone, knowing that he's going to score and that there's no way you're not going to the Super Bowl," Fencik says. "You could look around at the crowd and there was such jubilation, it was tremendous."

Ten years later, Hampton, a member of the Bears' radio team, was flying home from Chicago, when a man in the next seat recognized him. The stranger, who had lived in Atlanta and Washington, rattled off names from the 1985 team.

"He said, 'I don't even like watching the NFL today because it can't compare to the way you guys played your defense,'" Hampton says. "It was one year when a team transcended the game itself."

Singletary was *Associated Press* NFL Defensive Player of the Year that season, one of the few every-down middle linebackers in an era of specialty substitution. Dent led the league with 17 sacks and forced 7 fumbles. But to a lot of knowledgeable football people, Hampton was the key on defense, the man who drew extra blockers so others could make big plays.



Dee-fense: *Linebacker Mike Singletary, the NFL's defensive player of the year, begrudged every yard an opponent gained.*

PAUL JASIENSKI

In Hampton and Dent, the Bears had strength and speed in their defensive ends. Perry and Steve McMichael gave them the same combination at tackle. Outside linebackers Marshall and Otis Wilson could blitz and cover. Singletary was the heart and the head of the defense. Fencik and Duerson were physical and smart at safety, and cornerbacks Leslie Frazier and Mike Richardson had the right quickness and coverage skills for a team that didn't allow any long-developing pass plays.

Payton had the ideal complementary block-and-catch fullback in Matt

BRIAN DRAKE

Beware of the Bears: *The swarming 46 defense unleashed by coordinator Buddy Ryan gave up only 198 points in 16 regular-season games.*

Suhey, who also ran for 102 yards in one game. At wide receiver, Willie Gault provided speed and Dennis McKinnon possession toughness. Shuttling tight ends Moorehead and Tim Wrightman could catch and block. When third wide receiver Dennis Gentry entered the game he was a running threat from the Shotgun.

The offensive line of Jim Covert, Mark Bortz, Jay Hilgenberg, Tom Thayer, and Keith Van Horne helped the Bears lead the NFL in rushing for the third of four consecutive years. Rookie kicker Kevin Butler led the league in scoring, and Gault and Gentry gave the Bears the league's best kickoff-return tandem. The special teams as a group were the best in the NFL.

"We really didn't have any weak links," says Bill Tobin, now the Colts' director of football operations and then the Bears' personnel director. Fourteen players from that team appeared in Pro Bowls, nine of them played in the Honolulu game that season.

The 1985 Bears are remembered for their defense, but they had to overcome deficits of 14, 8, 10, 12, and 7 points in their first seven games. They ranked second in the NFL in scoring at 28.5 points per game, and they were explosive. They scored 38 points in less than seven minutes against Washington.

After eight games, McKinnon led the NFC with 7 touchdown catches, but the defense ranked twenty-third against the pass. The defense gave up too many big plays in the early games, a by-product of blitzes that didn't work. Ryan was not happy. The 1984 Bears had set NFL records with 72 sacks and 35:08 in average possession time, a credit to both their running game and their three-and-out defense. Ryan criticized management for letting strong safety Todd Bell and linebacker Al Harris hold out all season.

But, by the last game, they were playing for the defensive triple crown—league leaders in fewest rushing yards allowed, passing yards allowed, and total yards allowed. One fourth-quarter collapse dropped them to third against the pass, but the Bears gave up only 198 points, still the third-lowest total in a 16-game NFL season.

The 46, named for the jersey number of former Bears safety Doug Plank, had become their basic defense. It had eight players within one yard of the line of scrimmage.

Offenses didn't know who or how many defenders would rush the passer. An all-out rush occasionally left a receiver uncovered, but as 49ers coach Bill Walsh said, that didn't matter if the quarterback was on his back. Hampton recalls seeing a lot of quarterbacks congratulated for throwing the ball away.

"It was just an awesome display of raw power," Fencik says. "I used to look at the formation and say, 'There's no way they can block it.' You'd count one-two-three boom. You knew the quarterback was going to go down, and he was really going to go down hard because there was a lot of competition to get great hits."

Dallas coach Tom Landry, who seldom gushed praise, called the Bears' defense "more dominant than the Steel Curtain." It held 11 regular-season opponents to 10 or fewer points. "After practicing against our defense, games were a breeze," center Jay Hilgenberg says.

When Singletary learned that Detroit had gained 106 yards in a 24-3 drubbing, he grumbled, "That many? I was hoping it was about seventy-five." Two weeks later, after Atlanta gained 119 yards (minus-22 passing) in a 36-0 rout, Singletary was inconsolable because NFC rushing leader Gerald Riggs had totaled 110.

"It almost was an assault on our pride if an offense got across the fifty," Hampton says. "We couldn't wait for the ball to be snapped so we had a chance to make another play."

The most memorable game for the defense was at Dallas, a 44-0 victory that marked the first time any player on the Bears' roster had been involved in defeating the Cowboys. Dallas's deepest drive reached the Bears' 38. Chicago's defense scored

the game's first 2 touchdowns on interception returns. Late in the third quarter, when Cowboys fans already were streaming toward the exits, Singletary raised his hands and shouted, "Stay here! I want witnesses!"

Even with the Bears far ahead, Duerson and Wilson heard fans taunting them from behind on the sideline. "So I just started barking at them," Duerson says. "Then it was all so natural. Otis and I started barking out on the field. Fans in Chicago haven't quit barking."

The day after Super Bowl XX, when 500,000 fans braved a wind chill of minus-25 to line Chicago's parade route and another 150,000 people greeted the team at city hall, club president Michael McCaskey began his remarks by barking. "To me, there weren't words that were good enough," he says. "Woofing and barking seemed to be the only way to characterize the joy of the moment."

In the playoffs, Ryan promised a shutout against the Giants and 3 fumbles by the Rams' Eric Dickerson. He got two shutouts, but Dickerson fumbled only twice before being knocked out of the game. The Bears had knocked out Giants halfback Joe Morris the previous week on a hard hit by Perry. Wilson said, "I looked down [at Morris] and I thought it was a poster of him."

As the Super Bowl approached, other teams were interested in Ryan as a head coach. The night before the game, Fencik commiserated with Singletary about Ryan's rumored departure. "Even though it was dark," Fencik says, "you could see Mike's eyes get so big." The defense was about to watch one last game tape. Ryan had just told them, "Whatever happens, I want you to know you're my heroes."

Hampton announced the meeting was over. No more tape. "And with that," Fencik says, "McMichael took one of the chairs and hurled it at the chalkboard. But it didn't break the chalkboard. It impaled it." The offensive players next door wondered what was going on.

The next day, McMahon called the wrong formation on the second offensive play of Super Bowl XX, and Payton fumbled. New England recovered on the Bears' 19, threw 3 incomplete passes, and kicked a field goal.

"It meant so much to us to shut them out," Duerson says, "that when Walter came off the field, he did not look at us. That was going to be the thing that separated us from every other defense in the history of the game, shutting out all three opponents en route to winning a world championship."

The Bears allowed only 7 rushing yards, a Super Bowl record, and missed the total yardage record of 119 by 4. They had 7 sacks, 2 interceptions, 4 fumble recoveries, a safety, and a touchdown. Fencik says, "There was so little going on [in the defensive backfield] that I almost felt like an observer."

"Right before the game, it seemed like the defense was really pissed off at the world because the offense got introduced before the coin toss," guard Mark Bortz says. "When they found out, they just went nuts."

Special teams coach Steve Kazor had promised Tomczak a chance to play, even if he had to cover a punt. Kazor delivered with 4:28 to go, and Tomczak made the tackle, but he also drew a facemask penalty.

"Ditka really got upset," Kazor says. "He said, 'You're going to screw this game up.' I said, 'Coach, we're up forty-six to ten.' That's how intense he was. The score was meaningless. What mattered was how we played."

Well, that and what McMahon wrote on his headbands. In the playoff game against the Giants, he wore an Adidas headband, which violated league uniform and marketing rules, Commissioner Pete Rozelle said. So against the Rams, McMahon's headband carried a different message: "Rozelle."

McMahon wore an assortment of headbands during the Super Bowl, with varied endorsements: juvenile diabetes research, POWs and MIAs, a children's hospital, and the nickname of his former

Dallas coach Tom Landry, who seldom gushed praise, called the Bears' defense "more dominant than the Steel Curtain." It held 11 regular-season opponents to 10 or fewer points.

Sackmaster: *Defensive end Richard Dent, who led the NFL in sacks with 17, earned another distinction in Super Bowl XX when he was selected MVP.*

JOHN BIEVER

In the playoff game against the Giants, McMahon wore an Adidas headband, which violated league uniform and marketing rules, Commissioner Pete Rozelle said. So against the Rams, McMahon's headband carried a different message: "Rozelle."

college receiver recovering from successful brain tumor surgery.

As usual, McMahon spent the week filling reporters' notebooks. Shortly after arriving in New Orleans, he complained that the Bears hadn't allowed his acupuncturist on the team plane and he needed the treatment for his bruised buttock. Later, he mooned a helicopter flying over practice. "Just showing them where it hurt," he said.

In 1985, McMahon helped nudge the punk craze into the mainstream entirely by accident. He tried to cut his own hair in training camp. It wound up long in back and short everywhere else, and McMahon suddenly was the "Punky QB."

More often, he was different on purpose. "That's why he's a great quarterback," explained good friend and wide receiver Ken Margerum. "Defenses have all these computer printouts on what you're going to do, but Jim just goes against all convention of what he's supposed to do."

Ditka grew to admire that, if grudgingly. McMahon's personality attracted controversy the way sugar attracts ants, and coach and quarterback did lock horns. But after one game when McMahon twice persuaded Ditka to replace running plays with passes, Ditka admitted the team was better "when I let him wheel and deal."

"Jim would say things and do things that a lot of other players couldn't get away with," Covert says. "I think a lot of players lived vicariously through him. I think it's good on a team when you have somebody who is outspoken and says the things that really need to be said."

He fancied himself an offensive lineman in a quarterback's body, joining the linemen at their weekly dinners and butting helmets with them after big plays. Even now, the linemen's Blues Brothers poster hangs prominently in his den. "McMahon was a guy who everybody on the offense would die for," Moorehead says. "He came out with all kinds of injuries, but he loved to play the game."

His comeback at Minnesota was one of the year's offensive highlights. "That's when we said, 'We got it,'" Fencik says.

Three weeks later, in the sixth game, the Bears passed on 15 of their first 20 plays and jumped ahead of San Francisco 16-0 en route to a 26-10 victory that avenged the 49ers' victory in the NFC Championship Game the year before. "That gave us the confidence that we could not only compete with the best teams, but actually win," Bortz says.

McMahon hardly was the Bears' only colorful character.

"Shakespeare would have said this team was overcrowded with vibrant personalities," McCaskey says. "Save some for the next play."

Payton and Singletary were the leaders by example, the team's conscience. Wilson was the most emotional—he once took the field without his helmet. Fencik and Hampton were the class clowns and sages. Dent and McKinnon each had a knack for big plays, Dent quietly and McKinnon with flash.

Perry was the Falstaffian mascot. McMichael was the rock of consistency with the loose-cannon temperament, even after he stopped hunting rattlesnakes. Gault was the smooth publicity man, a greyhound among pit bulls. As authority figures, Ditka and Ryan both were part teddy bear and part grizzly.

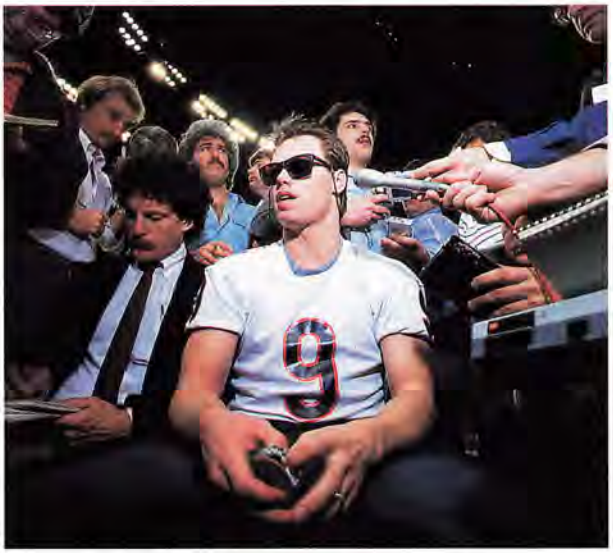
"It wasn't something manufactured," Fencik says. "There were just an awful lot of dominant players with dominant personalities. We refused to practice for a day the next summer because of what we thought was an improper drug test. These are guys that you truly wanted to be with in a foxhole."

As Wilson says, "You'd have thought all these crazy personalities would never get along." But for that one year, they did. Fencik calls it the most focused team he ever saw. Hilgenberg says he never saw a team more intense, more serious about its business.

"No one wanted to be the one to let the team down," Moorehead says.

"Everybody kind of had a joy and reveled in other people's successes," Covert says. "You don't see that very often. I think that's what really made that team special."

Duerson played for the 1990 Giants, who won Super Bowl XXV, but says he can't name any rookies from that team, though he's still friendly with rookies from the '85 Bears. When the team brought them



Punky QB: *Jim McMahon, who filled reporters' notebooks with his comments, defied convention at every turn, but Mike Ditka grew to admire that, if grudgingly.*

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Head games: *Jim McMahon managed to stir up controversy even with his headbands, which carried an assortment of messages during postseason games.*

BILL CUMMINGS

Refrigerated touchdown: *Defensive tackle-turned-running back William Perry, at 308 pounds, was an unmistakable sight as he scored on a plunge against the Patriots.*

back for a 10-year reunion in October, he says, "It was like we'd never been apart."

The players credit Ditka for tolerating the variety and pulling everyone together. "You had to have a coach who was very secure," Hilgenberg says. "I think they would try to split that team up real fast nowadays. Ditka only cared for us to be ready to play on Sundays."

The coach wasn't afraid of controversy. When Dent was gearing for an offseason contract battle, Ditka all but said the big defensive end was worth whatever he asked for. When Payton broke O.J. Simpson's and Earl Campbell's record for consecutive 100-yard games, Ditka said they didn't belong in the same paragraph with Payton.

Then there was Buddy Ryan. "It was kind of a volatile thing with Ryan and with Mike," says Tom Landry, who was Ditka's mentor in Dallas. "They were pretty much at each other's throats most of the time."

Ryan had boasted openly of saving Ditka's job the previous year. He wondered why the boss should be upset when they didn't see eye-to-eye. "I don't get mad when he disagrees with me," Ryan said. But what set Ditka off was a Monday night game in which Miami sprinted through Ryan's defense for a 31-10 halftime lead. The Dolphins' 38-24 victory ruined the Bears' undefeated season, but it slapped the cocky grins off their faces in time for the playoffs.

The coaches' sideline shouting match carried into the halftime locker room. Ditka remembered telling Ryan, "You want to go outside right now? We'll go."

Their most significant dispute was over Perry, whom Ryan had described during training camp as a wasted first-round draft choice. If Ryan wouldn't use him on defense, Ditka would find a spot for him. At San Francisco, Ditka had Perry run the ball on the last two plays, payback for the 49ers' use of guard Guy McIntyre at fullback the previous season. "Kind of gives you a little food for thought on the goal line," Ditka said.

The next week, in a Monday night home game against Green Bay, the Bears had three cracks from inside the 3. They scored 3 touchdowns. Perry ran for 1 and blocked for Payton on the other 2.

"I think I was stepping on people when I went in," Perry said of his touchdown. And his running style? "No style. Just straight ahead."

On Payton's scores, the 308-pound Refrigerator met 224-pound linebacker George Cumby in the hole and turned him into a Gumby toy. "He tried to look at me," Perry said. "I believe he was looking at stars."

Two weeks later, the Bears went to Green Bay. In the parking lot, fans

REBECCA SKELTON

Bear hugs: *The Bears, who had a lot to celebrate during the 1985 season, didn't hesitate to show their emotions.*

Super Bowl XX attracted an estimated 127 million viewers, a record TV audience at the time. The Bears' share of NFL-licensed merchandise went from 3.3 percent in 1984 to 18.5 in 1985 and number one in the league, a position the club retained for five years.

could pay for opportunities to bash refrigerators with sledgehammers. In the locker room, the Bears were greeted by two bags of fertilizer with a note from a Wisconsin radio station that said, "Here's what you guys are full of."

The Bears trailed 3-0 when they reached the Packers' 4-yard line shortly before halftime. This time, Perry lined up at wingback. But the stadium was too loud. The Bears couldn't run a play.

"We must have stood over the ball for five minutes," Hilgenberg says. "I was almost laughing at the line of scrimmage, knowing we were going to throw a pass to Fridge."

Perry went in motion. Cumby braced to meet him at the corner. Perry went around Cumby. He caught the touchdown pass without breaking stride.

Fans loved him. His gap-toothed grin appeared on magazine covers and talk-show couches. He showed up in zany songs and national commercials. "Every underdog in America identifies with him," Ditka said. "And everyone who's two or three pounds overweight."

If Perry dominated the limelight, Singletary, Payton, and McMahon were the personalities who dominated the locker room.

"His eyes look like fifty-cent pieces," Wilson said of the intense Singletary, who would break into a grin in the huddle after hitting somebody just right. In the second Minnesota game, the Vikings had first-and-goal at the 5 and Singletary kept daring them to cross the goal line. They didn't.

Payton didn't talk a lot, "but he didn't need to," Hilgenberg says. He was Walter Payton, the consummate pro who, in his eleventh season, still was the best-conditioned Bears player, playing every down as if he were "trying to be the best tailback in the tenth grade," Hampton said.

Payton and Singletary embodied the Bears of Ditka's dreams, people who spat out defeat as if it were sour milk and played harder than the other guys simply because they were Bears.

"I don't think we play the same brand of football as everybody, but I think we play a good brand of football," Ditka said. "It's kind of a fun brand. It's old-fashioned. It's hard-nosed. It's rock-'em, sock-'em.

"There are teams that are fair-haired and there are teams that aren't. There are teams named Smith and teams named Grabowski. We're a Grabowski."

"Whole social classes started identifying with people on our team," Duerson says. "Blue-collar workers. Intellectuals. Overweight people. We brought fun back into football."

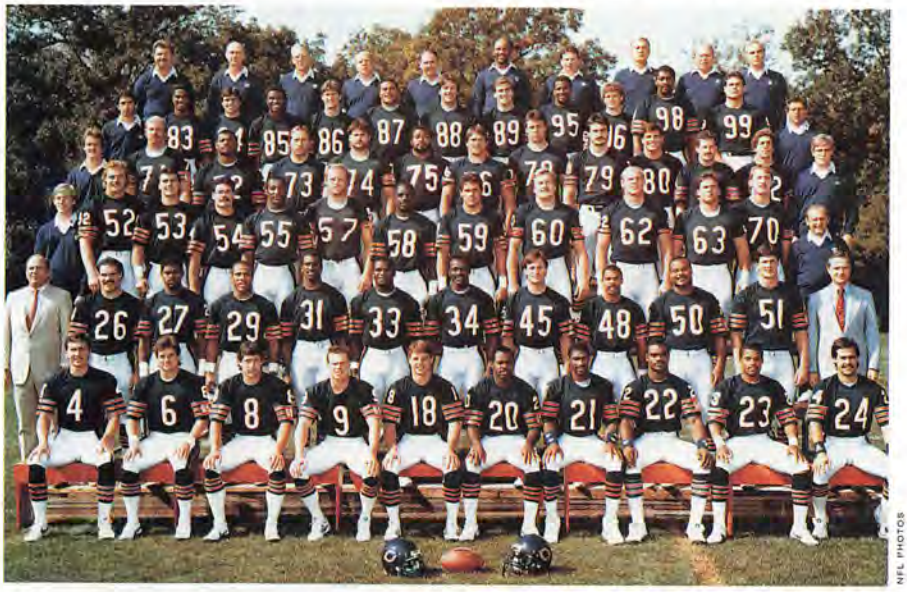
The Bears were the team people pulled for when their favorites weren't playing. Super Bowl XX attracted an estimated 127 million viewers, a record TV audience at the time. When NFL Films put out a Bears highlight tape before the Super Bowl, the one video doubled Films's total sales volume. The Super Bowl XX program also doubled the previous year's sales. The Bears' share of NFL-licensed merchandise went from 3.3 percent in 1984 to 18.5 in 1985 and number one in the league, a position the club retained for five years.

Wilson recalls meeting an 86-year-old woman that year. "She never even watched football until she started watching us," he says. "She said, 'You guys give me so much joy.'"

All of Chicago agreed. The postcard-famous lions at the Chicago Art Institute were dressed in Bears helmets. The Picasso sculpture at city hall wore a headband. The Chicago Symphony played "Bear Down, Chicago Bears."

And 10 years later, people still talk about the team.

"The Bulls win three [NBA] championships, that's one thing," says Moorehead, a suburban Chicago native. "But this is a football town. One Super Bowl goes a long way in this place."



A team to remember: *The 1985 Chicago Bears, described by coach Mike Ditka as a "rock-'em, sock-'em team," captured the fancy of football fans across the country.*

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When Quarterbacks Didn't Wear Skirts

I wonder how many people at Super Bowl XXX remember the days when a quarterback throwing an interception faced a real risk of paying for his carelessness by playing a couple of downs as a defensive back. I'd guess about 10 percent, and they'll be crusty old senior citizens such as me who also remember nickel hamburgers and rumble seats.

As I recall (and those of us who remember nickel hamburgers don't always have reliable recollections), the rules in those days provided that a coach could substitute no more than four players when possession of the ball changed. Or maybe it was two after each down. Whatever it was, I loved it. It offered defensive linemen such as me a chance for revenge.

As every football fan knows, offensive blockers have an unfair advantage over defenders. They know the snap count, where the running back is supposed to be going, and so forth. But that old limited substitution rule gave us defenders our chance to do some paying back for at least a down or two.

My team, the Konawa (Oklahoma) High School Tigers, ran a Single Wing offense, as did just about every other high school in America in those days. When the first stringer was hurt or tired, I played middle guard on defense. That meant that when the Bowlegs Drillers, or the Maud Mavericks, or the Wetumka Buffalos, or the Tecumseh Braves, or the Pearson Switch Pintos, ran one of those off-tackle plays, the strongside offensive guard in front of me would block the tackle and let me charge through the hole. Whereupon I would be blindsided by the enemy's weakside pulling guard. Guard trap, I think it's called. (And, by the way, those were the actual names of the schools competing for class C honors in our district of Oklahoma.)

Whether you call it a guard trap or not, that was its effect, and it inflicted bruises, sore ribs, and humiliation upon the defender. It was designed to neutralize linemen such as me, who compensated for a lack of what is now called "athleticism" with a sort of fierce damn-the-torpedoes enthusiasm for crashing into running backs. That made us slow to learn. It tended to be somewhere in the third quarter—after a halftime chewing-out by the coach—before we had begun understanding what was happening to us and had begun to take countermeasures.

The bright side of this situation was being left in after our side got the ball. Because the coach wanted to replace defensive backs with guys better schooled in ball handling, and because he could make only four substitutions, we linemen got to stay in for a play or two and often more, because little schools such as ours didn't have a wealth of replacements.

That made me the weakside guard on offense, the pulling guard, the guy who got to be the executioner on the guard trap. In other words, JOY! I got to clobber the same guy who had been doing it to me all day.

In my case, the situation even allowed me to become a ball carrier on one glorious occasion. I still remember the thrill of that. I suspect Coach does, too. It caused him to be reprimanded by the school board.

Then as now in Oklahoma, football is king, and at Konawa every physically able boy tried out for the team. That gave the coach a pool of about 30 kids from which to pick, and, despite the small number, a wide range of abilities. That was because in those days no one had imposed an age ceiling.

Konawa High was a mixed school, the student body including about one-third "oil patch" kids, who were bused in from the wherever the drilling rigs were working in the Seminole and Earlsboro oil fields. Another third, of which I was a member, were farmers' kids bused in from the cotton patches and corn fields. Another third were town kids.

Our better players tended to be fellows who went to school episodically, dropping out when jobs as "roughnecks" or "swampers" were available on the drilling rigs. Thus our ace fullback was 25 years old, and the center and tackle I played between when I was a 15-year-old junior both were at least 20.

Other schools in our class C league had about the same situation—except for Bowlegs, which was purely an oil-boom town. And it was at Bowlegs where I got my only chance to carry the ball.

I once overheard Coach remarking, "Hillerman is little, but he's slow." On this day, I was slower than usual.

The play in question was the Konawa Tigers' version of the off-tackle plunge. I was supposed to pull out, run behind the center, and deal with any defender who might have broken through. If none had, I was supposed to lead interference through the hole made by the strongside tackle.

This Saturday afternoon I was a wee bit late, reaching the hole behind the fullback instead of ahead of him. This caused him to be leading interference for me. The linebacker I was assigned to block slammed him with such gusto that the football flew backward, striking me on the chest. I clutched it, charged forward at least 2 yards, and was thereupon demolished so thoroughly by a

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MILLER

swarm of defenders that it became one of those rare double-fumble plays.

Coach was fairly tolerant for a man of his profession, and his reaction to this would not have gotten him into trouble had Bowlegs had the sort of facilities available to high schools today. But the Bowlegs gridiron was a grassless expanse, graded flat by an oil company's bulldozer. The yard markers were rolled on with some white material which I like to believe was chalk but might have been quicklime. (It's cheaper, and environmental hazard laws were not imposed in those days.) But what did in Coach was the absence of bleachers.

At Bowlegs, fans lined the playing field with their pickup trucks. They watched the game perched on bumpers, fenders, tailgates, and hoods, celebrating their team's successes with a symphony of horn honking.

This arrangement gave fans an intimate view of the action (one of our wide receivers once ran over his mother when he was driven out of bounds). Alas, it also put people in position to hear what was said on the bench, and this was what caused Coach his problem.

My tardy arrival at the hole had so provoked Coach that he didn't notice that Bowlegs supporters had stopped serenading their team's fumble recovery. The Konawa moms and dads just behind him heard what he was shouting to me even more clearly than I did and were more affected by it because I had heard it often in previous games.

"Hillerman," he bellowed, "you run like a (expletive deleted) dog!" I have replaced Coach's colorful language in deference to NFL fans who might be offended—as were the parents who protested Coach's language to the school board at its next meeting.

At Bowlegs, fans lined the playing field with their pickup trucks... celebrating... successes with a symphony of horn honking.

Suffice it to say that Coach had compared my running to that of a male dog whose reproductive ability had been impaired by injury. (This may surprise younger fans conditioned to contemporary trash talk but those were gentler times. Our idea of ribald was to state that "the only way to get to Maud is through Bowlegs." A look at an Oklahoma road map (if Bowlegs hasn't faded away with the oil boom) shows that to be true, but in those days it was not said in mixed company.

Shortly after my moment of glory as a ball carrier, Pearl Harbor was bombed, the 45th National Guard Division was mobilized, including our entire backfield and most of the rest of us, and the Konawa Tigers became the Willie and Joe of Bill Mauldin's famous World War II cartoons.

In the postwar world, the days of limited substitution were numbered, soon to be replaced by two-platoon football with its swarm of coaches, specialty teams, Nickel backs, skill positions, rules against putting dents in quarterbacks, and so forth. It happened first in college ball (or maybe the pros started it) and spread like dandelions through the ranks of the nation's high schools.

I saw part of that tragedy unfold from the press seats while covering football for the old and lamented *United Press*. One year we were watching All-America halfbacks looking silly at safety, and quarterbacks trying to outsmart each other on pass patterns, and the next it was all over.

There was no more getting even in this new world. The line clearly was drawn between defenders and offenders. One no longer did both jobs. Before long, defensive teams began looking at teammates on the offensive side as well-muscled sissies.

I think it was Jack Lambert, the great middle linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers' Steel Curtain defense, who said it first: "Quarterbacks should wear skirts." By then the sentiment had become common on the blue-collar side of the line.

But loss of the revenge factor wasn't the only price paid with the change to unlimited substitutions. Some of the great schools in the game dropped out, or dropped into virtually obscure categories. The list is long, a litany of the great colleges of my boyhood: Carnegie Tech, the University of Chicago, Loyola, Fordham with its "Seven Blocks of Granite" line, Villanova, Holy Cross, and Creighton, and all those Ivy League teams that now play out of the spotlight.

The first time I saw a team beat the Oklahoma Sooners—already on their way to their unprecedented string of national championships—it was Santa Clara. But the death of the limited substitution rule was also the death of Santa Clara football and of that sort of David-beating-Goliath business.

The Davids of the NCAA world can't afford to hire two platoons of coaches, or to redshirt a dorm full of big, fast players to keep them from signing with the competition.

Ah, well, not all the changes affecting football since my days as a second-stringer for the Konawa Tigers were bad. Our mixture of farm kids, town boys, and oil patchers also was a mix of white and Indians. The Indians in turn were a mix of Seminoles, Potawatomies, and Black Foot.

Our best halfback was a Seminole. One day he was missing from the seat ahead of me in English class, and at football practice. And to make the story short, he never returned to Konawa High. No one ever told us what happened, but we found out.

As was the case in much of the South in those days, an Oklahoma law prohibited blacks and whites from attending the same schools. Someone had filed formal notice with the school board claiming that there was a black ancestor somewhere in the family tree of our Seminole halfback.

Segregation, they called it. It made our halfback's presence in that chair ahead of me in English and on the football team a crime.

He was supposed to be enrolled in a "separate but equal" black school. But there was no black high school anywhere near Konawa. I never found out what happened to him. But when I remember that incident, it makes me downright delighted with the changes I see from football, circa 1941, to football, 1996.

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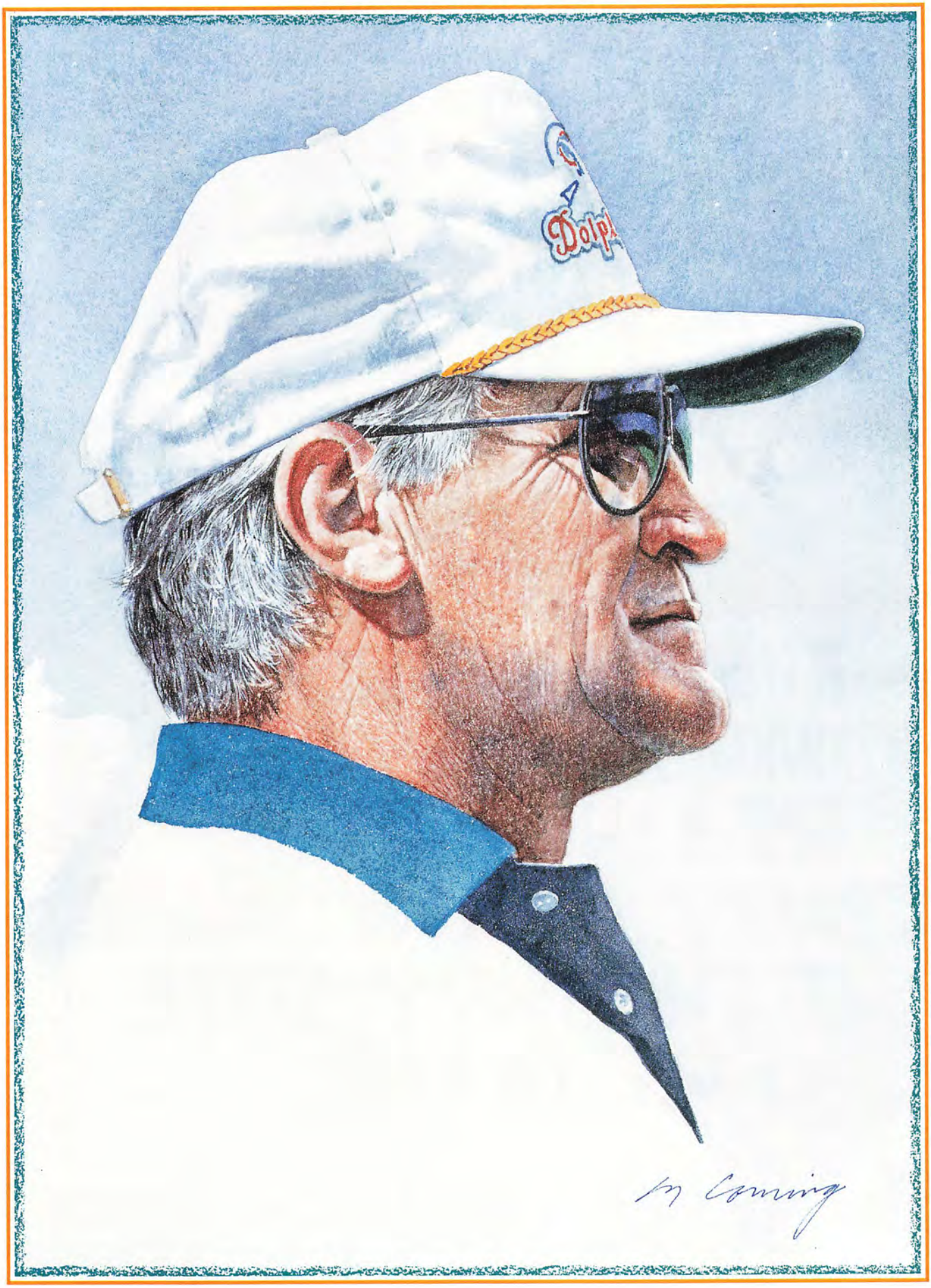


SUPER BOWL XXX

LEGENDARY EXIT

Don Shula Calls It a Coaching Career After 33 Storied Seasons in Charge in Miami and Baltimore

John F. Kennedy was in the White House the year Don Shula became an NFL head coach. Y. A. Tittle was the league's leading passer. America would have to wait six more years before man set foot on the moon.

So, when the NFL's all-time winningest coach announced his retirement on January 5, it marked more than the end of a career. It signaled the close of a unique chapter in NFL history.

The Shula era, first in Baltimore and then in Miami, touched four decades, 33 seasons, and 526 games. It produced 347 victories, 19 playoff teams, and three league champions.

But of all the numbing statistics that document his record-setting career, none is more remarkable than this: Across 33 years in pro football—seven with the Colts and 26 with the Dolphins—Shula teams experienced only two losing seasons. He was a man who knew how to win.

Shula's jut-jawed profile glared out across football fields during some of the most memorable moments in history. As coach of the Colts in 1968, he grimaced on the losing sideline as Joe Namath stunned Baltimore and the football world in Super Bowl III. As coach of the 1972 Dolphins, Shula was given a victory ride after Super Bowl VII as Miami defeated the Redskins to cap the NFL's only unbeaten, untied season (17-0).

Shula coached Miami to victory in the NFL's longest game—27-24 over Kansas City, in double overtime, in the 1971 AFC playoffs. Shula coached Miami in one of pro football's most dramatic struggles—a 41-38 overtime loss to the San Diego Chargers in the 1981 AFC playoffs.

He coached in a record-setting six Super Bowls and 36 playoff games. He set records for both regular-season victories (328) and victories all-time (347). He carved out a career winning percentage of .665 and averaged 10 victories per season.

Shula cast such a large shadow for so many years that he can't be discussed as a whole. You have to break him down into his component parts, the pieces of this piece-of-work. For as long as anyone can remember, he was the pièce de résistance of coaches.

THE GLARE

"The Glare?" Shula said in mock surprise, when he was asked about the look that froze coffee and players' hearts.

"It's a nice, friendly smile."

It was none of the three. It was Shula's wrath on a laser beam. It contained elements of confrontation, intimidation, humiliation, and scorn. It eliminated a lot of guesswork.

"I let my emotions out," Shula said. "I don't mask 'em, I just let 'em go. People can read me very easily. It's part of my personality, I don't spend time trying to figure out how to manipulate. I think any time you have to do anything that's contrived, the players sense it, and it's not very effective."

Players went to great lengths to be spared the Glare.

"Shula was a thug," Bubba Smith said. "He was tough, he had a drive to win, and if you didn't have that same drive, he didn't deal with you."

Shula was a "Napoleonic figure," in the opinion of Dan Henning, the former Shula assistant who later coached the Chargers. But sometimes Shula lacked Napoleon's charm.

"He scared the crap out of me," said Jim Mandich, who was the Dolphins' top draft pick out of Michigan in Shula's first Miami season, and lasted eight seasons. "He had me off balance right from the beginning. I came to camp driving a '62 Valiant with flowers painted all over it. I was wearing bell-bottoms, a tank top, sandals, love

TONY TOMSIC

Perfection: *Shula enjoyed a victory ride after Super Bowl VII, in which a Dolphins' victory capped a perfect 17-0 season.*

beads, and had long hair.

"I walked into Shula's office. He took one glance and said, 'You're Mandich? You were the captain of the Michigan football team?'"

Shula had great hang time on the word "you."

Any friendliness a player got from Shula was hard earned.

"My rookie year I made a lot of mistakes," said Jim Jensen, a college quarterback who played his way onto the Dolphins as a special-teams hit man. "He'd say things—just about have me in tears. I was at the the point I almost felt like quitting. It's embarrassing. He calls you names, every name in the book."

And yet, Jensen lasted 12 seasons under Shula. Jensen later played arena football and often found himself using Shula mannerisms and expressions. In difficult life situations, Jensen often asks himself, "What would Shula do here?"

Shula was the headmaster of a reverse finishing school. Instead of smoothing out the rough edges, he roughed up the smooth ones.

"I needed a pretty stern message delivered," Mandich said. "I needed to be told, 'You're really stepping up in class. It's gonna take a lot more effort and commitment than you thought it would take to play in the NFL.' Shula got the best player out of Jim Mandich he could get, and that's the essence of coaching."

Shula developed friendships with some of his players, but only after they retired.

NFL PHOTOS

Quick study: *Shula learned a lot about the NFL in seven seasons as a player.*

VIC STEIN

Sideline strategist: *Shula became the NFL's youngest coach when he was hired by the Colts at the age of 33. He took the team to the NFL title game in his second season.*

"Everyone was talking about the Jets early in the 1994 season," Mandich said. "About how [coach] Pete Carroll was having pizza parties for the team, and isn't this great and fun? I thought, 'Man, you don't have a clue. The players are not your buddies.' You need a hell of a lot of [insensitive, mean guy] in you to coach in the NFL."

The only Dolphins who really kidded around with Shula were on the Larry Csonka-Jim Kiick-Mercury Morris team that went 17-0 in 1972, the only perfect season in NFL history. Csonka and Kiick once turned loose a live alligator in Shula's private shower. Everyone (except the alligator) had a good laugh, and maybe the lesson was: You can joke around with the coach as long as you win every week.

THE JAW

The Shula Jaw is functional. It is shaped like the cowcatcher on an old locomotive, and it pushes aside life's debris, clearing the track for the Shula Express. The Jaw swept away critics, whiners, slackers, bluffers, glad-handers, chit-chatters, time-wasters, psyche-probers, and an occasional movie star.

Shula has been introduced to actors Kevin Costner and to Don Johnson, and he didn't have the faintest idea who either man was.

One Sunday a team official forgot to inform Shula that a certain author had been granted front-office permission to sit in on the Dolphins' halftime meeting, to do book research. Shula saw a stranger with a pad and pen and became livid.

"Who the hell is that sunovabitch?" Shula thundered.

"A writer," he was told.

"Get him the hell out of here!"

James Michener, meet Don Shula.

Shula was recapping a trip to England once when this exchange took place:

Shula: "We visited the home of that old writer, what's his name?"

Sportswriter: "Shakespeare?"

Shula: "Yeah."

He is a man of routine, a creature of habit. He keeps his appointment with God each morning at early Mass, and then the world goes on Shula time.

In the Monday team meeting, Shula would outline the week's schedule in detail, even though it never changed. Each subsequent morning he would go over that day's schedule, as the players' eyes glazed over.

"Nothing in the routine had changed one bit in the eleven years I've been here," said Jeff Dellenbach, offensive lineman. "It's a running joke. Someone will ask, 'Why do we do [a certain drill] this way?' And

SOFT SPOTS HIDDEN BEHIND A GRANITE JAW

Don Shula jumped from his desk, tossed open the door of his office, and threw me out.

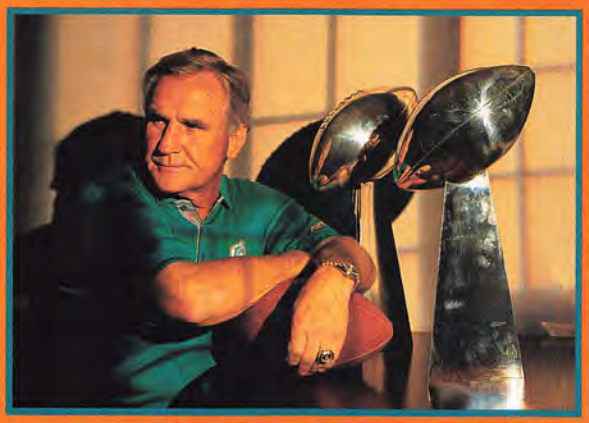
I had never admired or respected him more.

This was vintage Shula. Tough. Controlled. Willing to fight a good fight. Our disagreement was a simple one. It was 1982. I was the Dolphins' player representative and had told the coach that, in an act of solidarity, the entire team would walk across the field before the preseason opener and shake hands with the Washington Redskins. Simple. Just a handshake. Shula didn't see it that way.

"You're not going to pull that Mickey-Mouse nonsense with my football team." We did it anyway. He fined each player $50. He fined me $100.

So why do I cite that moment as a defining one in our friendship? Because it was at that time that I began to understand his fire, his desire to win, his definition of being right. Your either are or you're not.

Early in my career, Shula was an enigma. At least to me. Like the rest of America, I had watched him prowl the sidelines, work the officials, and win championships. I wasn't ready to stand face to face on a football field with that granite jaw. And more often than not it was yelling at me!



RON MODRA

Symbols of success: *A two-time Super Bowl winner, Shula's mission always was to be the best.*

He screamed, he shouted. But most of all he taught. There was always a lesson. It didn't always sink in right away. But I began to get it one Sunday morning in 1978, my rookie year. As usual, the Dolphins held a Catholic Mass at the team hotel on the morning of the game. Four players and two coaches were there along with Shula. He filled the role as alter boy. The dichotomy of the two Shulas was striking—the screaming coach and the saintly altar boy were one man.

And it was there that I began to see the other side of Shula. Yes, his fire always looked for the best in life. He screamed at me for one reason and one reason only. He wanted me to win. He wanted me to be the best player I could possibly be.

That was Don Shula's mission—to be the best, to win within the rules. But more important than that, to win with class. I'm not sure why it hit home on that morning. Perhaps it was the kindness in his eyes, the genuineness of his actions, or simply the manner in which he performed his duties. But from that point on, I began to see him in a different light.

Our friendship was not without its bumps and turns. When the players began the strike during the 1982 regular season, I found myself on many occasions sitting in front of Shula's desk discussing the fate of the league.

"Free agency is a right of every American worker. It's that simple," I said.

"But what about the rights of the fans, of the league?" he countered. "Are you going to take the responsibility for ruining this wonderful game?"

At times our meetings were terse. We argued and disagreed. But even though he was the veteran coach and I was the young player, he always treated me with respect.

That strike eventually ended, nine weeks later. It was with great relief that I finally entered the Dolphins' locker room with the rest of my teammates. There to greet us was the coach. He smiled and shook our hands. When it was my turn, Shula hugged me. "Thank God," he said. "Thank God."

Months earlier, of course, there had been Shula's anger about that "Mickey-Mouse" handshake in the preseason game. Despite his protests, his $50 and $100 fines, his cajoling, players did shake hands that night. Fifty thousand fans at the Orange Bowl watched all but seven Dolphins' players walk across the field before the game and greet the Redskins.

They booed.

They yelled.

And Shula smiled.

He never said a word to me about my role in that event. But when he sent me into the game with a play that night, he did something he had never done on the field before. He put his arm around me, gave me the play, and pushed me toward the huddle—with a wink.

They next day, he cut most of the players who did not shake hands. The message? If you're going to win the good fight, you win it as a team.

In the end, every Dolphins' player—from Hall of Fame inductee to benchwarmer—will have his career defined with one short sentence. We played football for Don Shula.

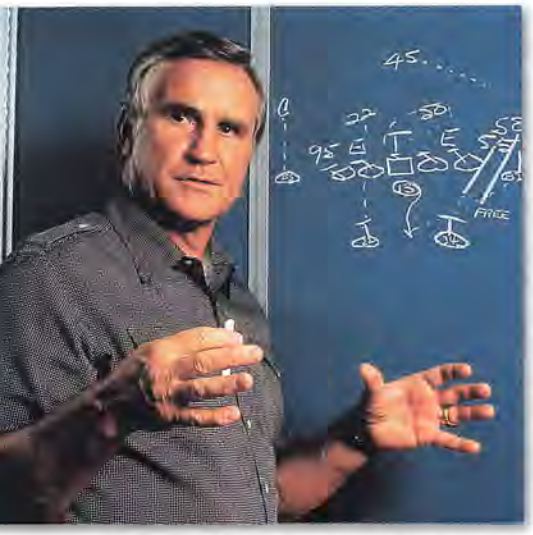
BY JIMMY CEFALO

Reprinted from the New York Times

someone else will say, 'Because that's the way they did it in '72.'"

And yet it would be wrong to categorize Shula as inflexible. In judging attitudes, he differentiated between players who were harmful to the team, and players who were a thorn in his side but could get the job done. The former would go; the latter would stay.

Bubba Smith, who was a Colts' rookie in Shula's fifth season in Baltimore, didn't break into the starting lineup until after he copped an attitude and got in Shula's face.



Mastermind: *Shula's game plans were as varied as his personnel across 33 seasons.*

"My first year, I was Joe College, Peter Prep," Smith said. "He had me at tackle, and my legs were too long to play there, so most of the time I was on the bench. He was so strong willed, he wasn't going to move me to end.

"My second year, I came back and really challenged Shula. I came to camp looking like Rap Brown—big Afro and love beads. The sportswriters said, 'Is Shula going to make you cut your hair?' I said, 'Is he my barber or my coach?'"

It was a daily glare-off at 20 paces, but Bubba could play, so Shula moved him to end, and Smith became a star. Not long after that, Shula was one of the first coaches to stock the team shower room with black hair-care products.

"The fact that my wife and I raised five kids helped me as a coach to understand the changing problems of young people," Shula said. "When Dave was nineteen, Mike was thirteen. We had five teenagers at once. I had to learn how to deal with their problems. That helped me deal with young players."

Shula surrounded himself with crackerjack assistants—nine went on to NFL head coaching jobs—and stayed ahead of the curve most of the way—only two seasons under .500 in 33 years. His 1976 team went 6-8 and his 1988 team 6-10. In the old days, Shula was offensively conservative, even when he had Johnny Unitas at quarterback. Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino usually passed more often than anyone in football.

"The great thing about Shula is the way he adjusted with the game," said Hank Stram, former Kansas City coach. "Not many of us ever had his sort of flexibility."

Whatever the challenge—a player, the culture, the game itself—Shula handled it the same way. He pointed his chin down the track and shoveled the coal.

"You've got to have the courage of your convictions," Shula said. "Mentally, physically, morally, you've got to have the courage. Somehow, some way, you've got to get the job done."

THE HEART

It was the summer of 1958. Don and Dorothy Shula were on their honeymoon at Ocean City, New Jersey. They were strolling along the seashore when Don stopped and asked Dorothy to backpedal. You know, run backwards in the soft beach sand.

"Why?" she asked, appropriately.

"I want to see how agile you are," he explained. "Football players have to be agile, and I want to see if our offspring have a chance to be players."

Don wasn't kidding. So Dorothy backpedaled. Shula's critics use this story to illustrate Shula's coldness, but actually it shows the opposite. Young Don was so smitten with love that he committed a major coaching blunder. He should have conducted this important agility test before proposing. What if Dorothy had been clumsy?

"I would've been stuck," Shula says with a smile.

He smiles often when he talks about Dorothy, whom he met in a bowling alley in their hometown of Painesville, Ohio. They were a mutual admiration and inspiration society for more than 32 years. They had five children, and the two boys inherited enough backpedaling dexterity to become NFL players.

Dorothy died of breast cancer in 1991, after a terrible four-year illness. The first time Don Shula's kids ever saw him cry was at her funeral.

He was devastated. For weeks he wandered around their home, feeling Dorothy's presence, sinking into despair and loneliness.

"I'd always know that Dorothy would be there when I walked out of the locker room," Shula has said. "She'd always had an answer for whatever happened that day. She'd gotten me to think about things other than football...and she'd always found a way to make me laugh."

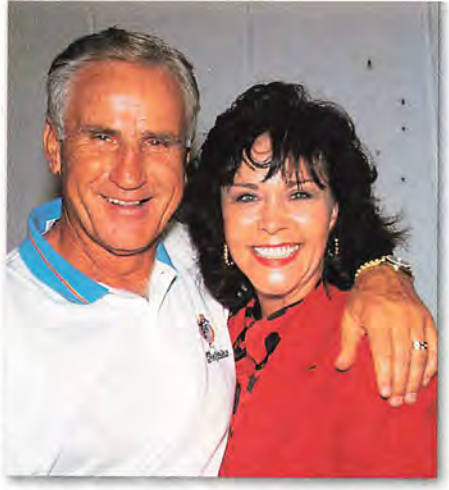
What saved Shula was his family. He had always had a coach-player relationship with his kids, but with Dorothy gone, he knew he had to do what she had begged him to do—let down the emotional walls.

"He was never the kind of father who could tell you he loved you, who would hold you or kiss you," said Donna, the oldest Shula daughter. "It was real awkward for him. It's funny some of the things that you can talk to him about, things like your personal relationships, things you would never dream of telling him before. He tells us he loves us a lot more, too."

Nearly a year after Dorothy's

ALLSPORT

First love: *Dorothy, his wife of 32 years, "always found a way to make me laugh."*



DAVID DRAPKIN

Happiness: *Mary Anne, whom Shula married in 1993, helped him smile again.*

death. Shula went to a New Year's party and met Mary Anne Stephens, a wealthy political and philanthropic activist. Two months later he worked up the courage to ask her for a date, and a year and a half later, they married.

A new Shula emerged, wearing flowered shirts and designer clothes, dancing at an Elvis theme party, snorkeling in the ocean, going to tennis camp in California. Opening up more, even with his players.

"I definitely think he changed," retired linebacker John Offerdahl said. "He learned to enjoy football maybe a little more. I saw him smile a little more. When I first came, everything was business, business, business. Lately he found time to slide in a joke, loosen it up a little."

Not that Shula hasn't always had a soft, sentimental side. He still thinks of that day on the beach with Dorothy, and he smiles.

"Quick feet," he says.

THE BELLY

Due south of the Chin is the Shula Belly. It is well known for its stubborn refusal to shrink, despite Shula's relentless jogging and dieting. But the Belly is even more famous as home office of the Shula Fire.

"I was born with it," Shula says, referring to the fire, not the belly.

He was raised in little Painesville, Ohio, and was the boss of the local playground, even though he was the smallest and youngest kid in the neighborhood. Legend has it that when his grandparents beat him at a card game, little Don threw the cards and called them cheaters. True story?

"Oh yeah," Shula says.

When his sixth-grade football team lost a game, Shula ran under the stands and sobbed. In high school and in college, his teammates called him "coach," and it was not always a term of endearment.

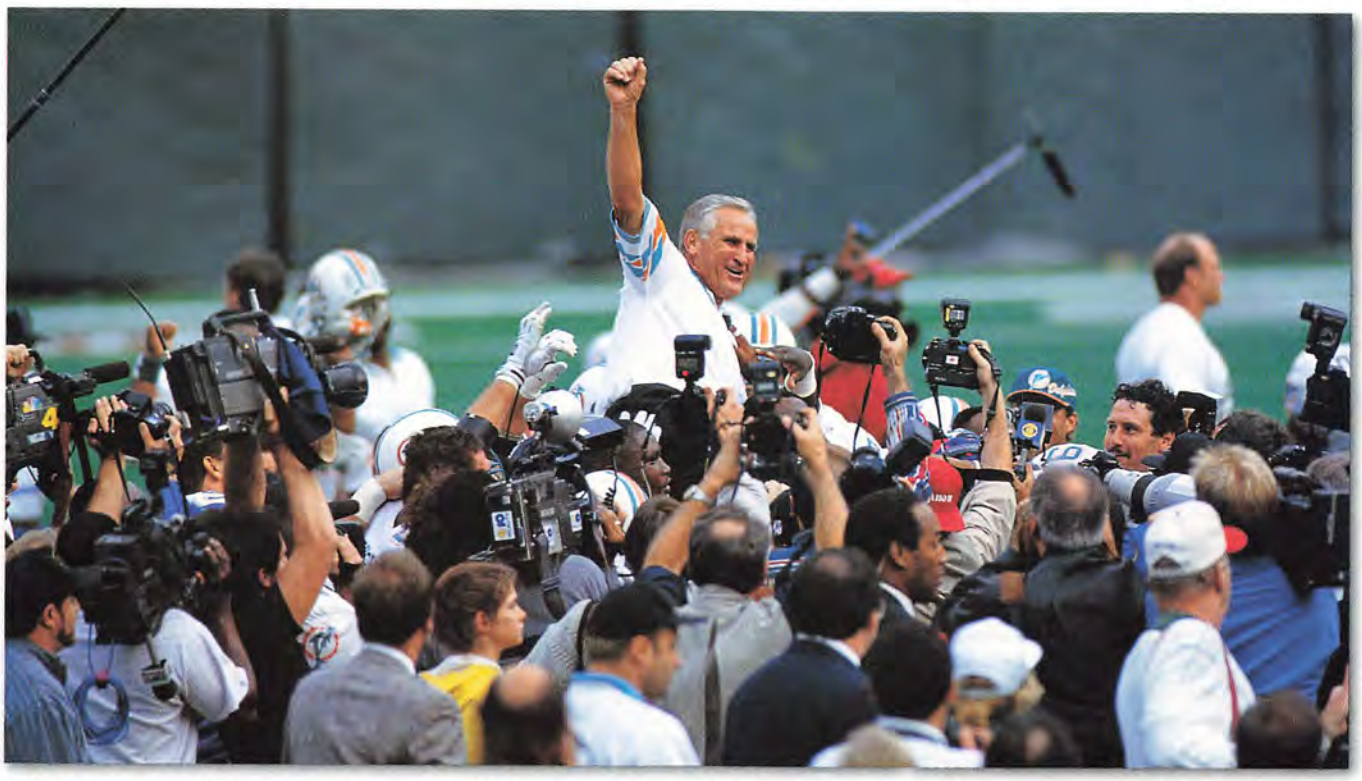
"More than once," he says, "I was told, 'Hey, you worry about yours and I'll worry about mine.'"

He was a hard-nosed running back at little John Carroll University, then he faced a career decision.

"I had a teaching minor in math," Shula says, "and I wanted to coach and teach in high school. When I graduated from college, I had a job offer in Canton, Ohio, at Lincoln High School, for $3,700. I was drafted by the Browns, and they offered me a contract for $5,000. I decided to shoot for the moon."

He was simply taking a more roundabout route to Canton, now home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He played seven seasons at defensive back for the Browns, Colts, and Redskins, then went into coaching as an assistant at Virginia. Five seasons and two jobs later, he was hired as head coach of the Baltimore Colts at age 33.

Shula is so driven that he had missed only one full day of work in 33 seasons, and that was because of Dorothy's illness, until he suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon in December, 1994, and underwent surgery. Still, he did not miss the next



PHIL MASTURZO

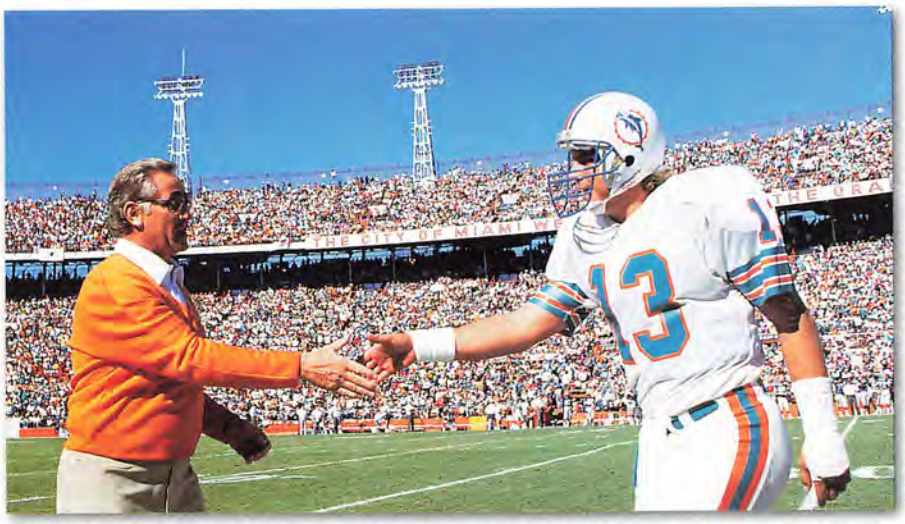
Milestone: *A 19-14 Dolphins victory over Philadelphia on November 14, 1993, made Shula the winningest coach in NFL history.*

Career Coaching Record

REGULAR SEASON

Year Team	W	L	T	Pct.
1963—Baltimore	8	6	0	.571
1964—Baltimore	12	2	0	.857
1965—Baltimore	10	3	1	.750
1966—Baltimore	9	5	0	.643
1967—Baltimore	11	1	2	.857
1968—Baltimore*	13	1	0	.929
1969—Baltimore	8	5	1	.607
1970—Miami	10	4	0	.714
1971—Miami	10	3	1	.750
1972—Miami*	14	0	0	1.000
1973—Miami*	12	2	0	.857
1974—Miami	11	3	0	.786
1975—Miami	10	4	0	.714
1976—Miami	6	8	0	.429
1977—Miami	10	4	0	.714
1978—Miami	11	5	0	.688
1979—Miami	10	6	0	.625
1980—Miami	8	8	0	.500
1981—Miami	11	4	1	.719
1982—Miami	7	2	0	.778
1983—Miami	12	4	0	.750
1984—Miami	14	2	0	.875
1985—Miami	12	4	0	.750
1986—Miami	8	8	0	.500
1987—Miami	8	7	0	.533
1988—Miami	6	10	0	.375
1989—Miami	8	8	0	.500
1990—Miami	12	4	0	.750
1991—Miami	8	8	0	.500
1992—Miami	11	5	0	.688
1993—Miami	9	7	0	.563
1994—Miami	10	6	0	.625
1995—Miami	9	7	0	.563
Regular Season Totals	**328**	**156**	**6**	**.676**
Postseason Totals	**19**	**17**	**0**	**.528**
Overall Record	**347**	**173**	**6**	**.665**

*Won NFL Championship



ALAN SCHWARTZ

Winning combination: *Shula spotted a potential in Dan Marino that was overlooked by other clubs in the 1983 draft, and Marino responded with a record-shattering career.*

game, riding the sideline in a golf cart. And coaching. His energy was legendary. Bucking the NFL trend, he did the work of two men—coach and general manager.

On the sideline on Sundays, Shula was a maniac, all chin and glare and bark, the fire seemingly raging out of control. Yet he ran the ship with a steady hand, and later had uncanny recall of every play.

"I don't know that I'll ever find a substitute for what happens on game day, when the ball is kicked off," Shula says.

THE RECORD

Some perspective on Shula's career victory total: The active coach closest to Shula in victories is Dan Reeves of the New York Giants—and he trails Shula 347 to 143 after 15 years of coaching. If Reeves averages 10 victories a season, he will catch Shula in the year 2016 at age 72.

Shula was too busy coaching to wallow around in his numbers and records, but he is aware of whom he passed to become football's winningest coach.

"To me," he says, "the two most important people in the NFL were George Halas and Paul Brown."

Shula played under Brown in Cleveland, then coached under Brown disciple Blanton Collier at the University of Kentucky. Shula also coached under George Wilson, a Halas disciple, and then, as a head coach, went head-to-head with Halas. In their nine meetings, Colts versus Bears, Shula came out with a 5-4 edge.

"Their two styles were in direct contrast, and I learned from both," Shula says. "From Halas I learned the handling of men and the toughness and competitiveness of the game. From Paul I got the teacher-pupil relationship. Paul put the classroom into pro football."

THE EMPIRE

Just northwest of Miami is the town of Miami Lakes, which really should be named Shulaville. Bearing the name and signature of Don Shula are two hotels, a steak house, a sports bar/restaurant, an executive golf course, and a huge athletic club.

You can shop from a full line of Don Shula golf clothing, and everything from golf balls to hotel soap to match books is stamped with a drawing of the famed Shula profile.

At the plush Don Shula Steak House, the menu is inscribed on a real football. The biggest cut is a 48-ounce porterhouse, bigger than your menu, and if you eat the entire steak, your name is engraved on a small gold plaque and bolted to the wall. Management assumes no responsibility for any fire that might start in your belly.

That 48-ounce porterhouse is the perfect Shula touch: To be rewarded, you must push yourself beyond sane limitations, eliminate all distractions, dig in, and go to work.

No excuses. Somehow, some way, you've got to get the job done.

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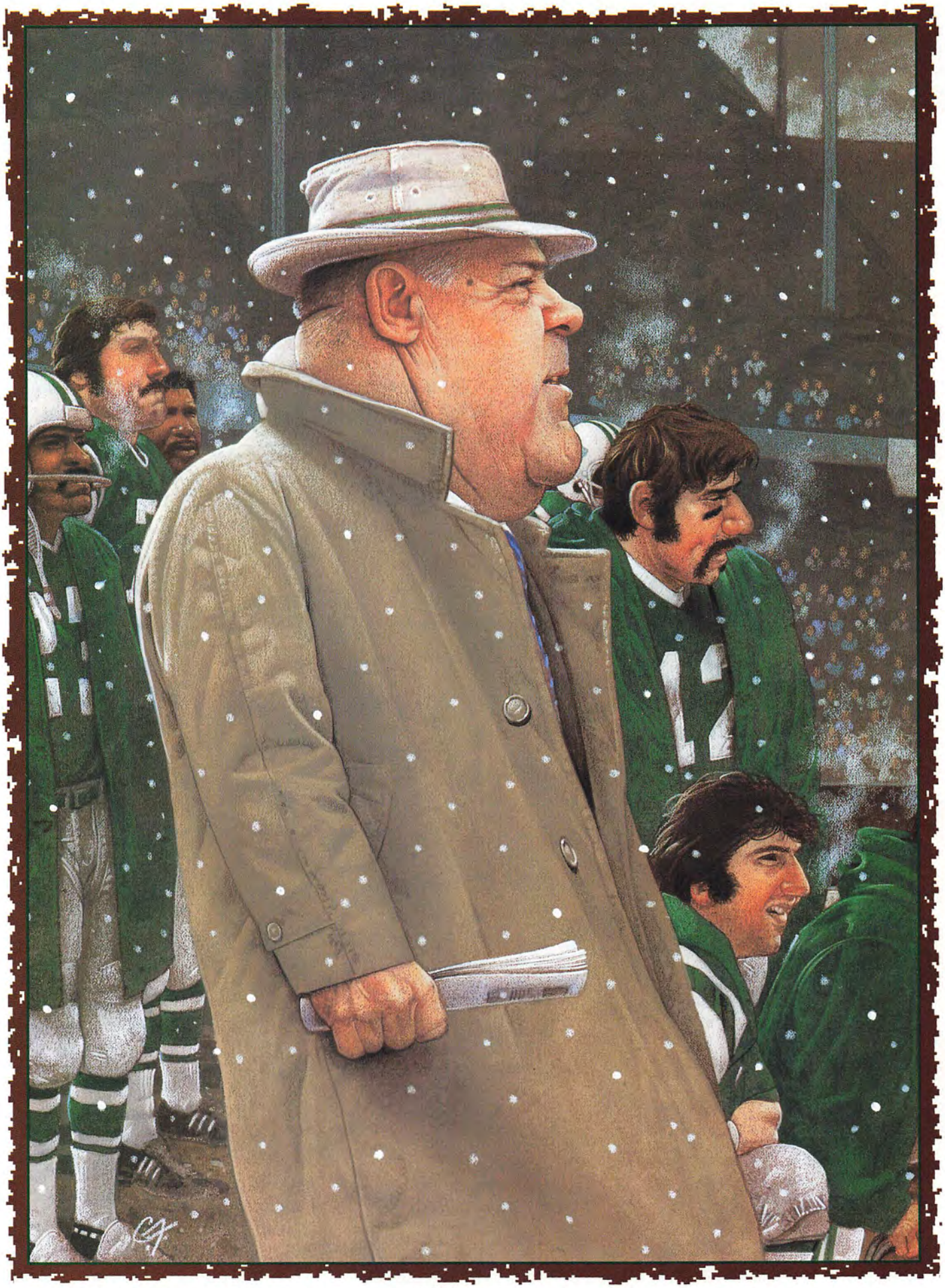

ILLUSTRATION BY C.F. PAYNE

The Little Coach With a Big Heart . . . and a Résumé of Greatness

WEEB

By Ray Didinger

Lucy Ewbank's weekly bridge club had taken over the parlor, so Weeb Ewbank was spending the afternoon in the basement of his Oxford, Ohio, home. He apologized for the clutter. There was so much history and so little space.

"Cindy, our granddaughter, is after me all the time," Ewbank says. "She tells me I should take better care of this stuff. Every time she's here, she tries to organize things. She is afraid some of the pictures will fade.

"I tell her, 'The memories won't fade. That's the important part.'"

Wilbur (Weeb) Ewbank spent 46 years in football, coaching at every level from high school, through the military, to college and, finally, the National Football League. There are bits and pieces of all those seasons lining the walls of Ewbank's modest red brick home.

There is a photo of the Cleveland Browns from 1950, the year the Browns joined the NFL and won the league title with Ewbank serving as an assistant coach under Paul Brown. There is a photo of the 1958 Baltimore Colts, the team that head coach Ewbank led to the world championship in the first sudden-death overtime game in NFL history.

On another wall, there is a photo of Ewbank riding on the shoulders of three New York Jets players—Steve Thompson, Mike D'Amato, and John Dockery—as the team celebrated a victory in the 1968 American Football League Championship Game. That was the victory that put the Jets in Super Bowl III, in which they pulled off their epic 16-7 upset of the Colts.

"Those are all great teams," Ewbank says. "Here's another."

He points to a smaller photo on the mantle. It is a photo of the 1936 Oxford-McGuffey (Ohio) High School Green Devils. Ewbank, then 29, was the head coach.

"We were undefeated and unscored upon," Ewbank says, brushing the faintest trace of dust off the frame. "You can't do any better than that."

Ewbank ran his finger across the Oxford-McGuffey High photo, naming each player and the position he played, and telling what became of him. There was genuine affection in his voice. They were his boys. They always would be his boys.

It was the same with the Colts and Jets. Ewbank has a dozen framed photos of individual players: fullback Bill Mathis ("great guy," Weeb says), tackle Jim Parker ("fabulous"), flanker Don Maynard ("you never knew what he would do"), and, of course, Joe Namath ("great competitor, tough as nails").

Ewbank has a metal filing cabinet filled with playbooks, game plans, and other papers from his coaching days. He has dozens of film reels, each one labeled. He keeps his old projector in the basement. Sometimes he watches a reel or two, just for the pleasure of seeing Namath and John Unitas play quarterback again.

Ewbank coached both Namath and Unitas. He won championships with both. He has been asked a million times which quarterback was better—in interviews, at banquets, by strangers on the street—and he will not put one man ahead of the other. He has too much respect for Namath and Unitas to make either of them second-best in anything.

"It's enough to say they're both great," Ewbank says. "I never had to choose between them, and I won't start now."

Now 88, walking with two artificial hips, the 5-foot 7-inch Ewbank seems even smaller than he did when he was coaching. He has been retired since 1974, when he stepped down as vice president and general manager of the Jets. He does not lack for things to do. He and Lucy, married 69 years, have three daughters, eight grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren, with two more on the way.

Weeb watches football practice at his alma mater, Miami of Ohio University, one day a week and attends the Super Bowl almost every year. He still enjoys the game, although he does not like the direction it is taking with players dancing

Game face: *Legendary head coach Weeb Ewbank (left) strikes a familiar pose on the sidelines in this artist's conception of a cold, winter's game day with the Jets.*

in the end zone and taking bows after routine tackles.

"You watch a game now and players are dancing and bumping their heads together. Have you ever seen anything more asinine?" Ewbank says. "If I had a player who got out of line, I told him: 'This is pro football. It's supposed to be a team game.'

"Now you have agents telling players, 'If you make a play, even if it's nothing, make sure you pose for the camera.' It's all about making money. I look at these teams and I don't see the closeness we had. I feel I coached at the best time."

Ewbank is the only head coach to win championships in both the NFL (with the Colts twice) and the AFL (with the Jets). He also coached in four of the NFL's landmark games—the Browns' 1950 NFL debut against the Eagles, the Colts' sudden-death overtime victory in the 1958 title game, the Jets' upset in Super Bowl III, and the 1970 debut of *Monday Night Football* when the Jets visited Cleveland.

Those four games shaped the future of pro football, and Wilbur Charles Ewbank was involved in all of them. He was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1978, but even with that, many of his players feel he has not received the credit he deserves.

"When people talk about the great coaches, they start with [Vince] Lombardi and [Don] Shula, and they usually don't include Weeb, which is wrong," says Unitas, who led the Colts to back-to-back world championships (1958-59).

"Lombardi and Shula were good coaches, but they were boisterous and that got them a lot of press. Weeb was a little guy who seldom raised his voice, so people overlooked him. But he got the job done without intimidating [players]. He was so far ahead of other coaches in terms of offense, it wasn't even funny.

"They made a big deal out of Buffalo running the No-Huddle offense a few years ago. Hell, we were running it with Weeb in the 1950s," Unitas says.

"I think Weeb is the greatest coach ever," says Art Donovan, the Hall of Fame defensive tackle who played for Ewbank in Baltimore from 1953 through 1961. "He took two of the worst teams ever, the Colts and the Jets, and built them into champions. He took Unitas and Namath as rookies and developed them into Hall of Famers. You can't do any better than he did."

Donovan dedicated his autobiography, *Fatso*, to Ewbank, referring to him as the man who most influenced his football career. Actually, what Weeb did was crack the whip on Donovan until the ex-Marine brought his weight down from 320 pounds to 270.

"He almost killed me, but he got me into shape," Donovan says. "Hell, I couldn't catch anybody at 320 pounds. When I lost the weight, I started making more plays.

Ewbank is the only head coach to win championships in both the NFL (with the Colts twice) and the AFL (with the Jets).

"The little Dutchman wouldn't let me eat or drink anything. I called him every name in the book, but when we beat the Giants for the title, I hugged him. It was the first time in my life I ever won anything, and I owed it to Weeb.

"I called him a little weasel once in an interview, and he got mad," Donovan says. "I told him, 'Weeb, I said it affectionately.' That's the truth. He was a little weasel, but a lovable little weasel."

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Weeb Ewbank was born in Richmond, Indiana, in 1907, the son of a grocery store owner. At 9, he was delivering orders in a horse-drawn wagon. As a teenager, he hitched a ride to Dayton to see Jim Thorpe play for the Canton Bulldogs.

He was a three-sport star at Oliver P. Morton High School. He played football and baseball in college, and, because he married Lucy while in school, he secretly played semipro ball to earn extra money.

Ewbank made $3 a game playing sandlot baseball, and twice as much for football. He usually wound up playing two football games a weekend: one at the college, the other in a semipro league with, as he describes it, "a bunch of bootleggers." At 5-5, 138 pounds, he played under the alias Shorty Thomas, thereby protecting his college eligibility.

After college, Ewbank spent two years teaching and coaching at Van Wert (Ohio) High School. His salary was $2,000 a year. "It was the start of the Depression," he says. "You were lucky to have any job."

In 1930, Ewbank went to Oxford-McGuffey, where his teams won 71 games and lost only 21 in 13 years. He had a 21-game winning streak during which his teams outscored the opposition 270-0.

Ewbank might have continued coaching at the high school level if World War II had not resulted in his being stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, where he was an assistant football coach for Paul Brown. The two men formed a lasting relationship.

After the war, Ewbank went into college coaching as an assistant at Brown University, then as head coach at Washington University in St. Louis. Meanwhile, Paul Brown built a professional powerhouse known as the Cleveland Browns in the All-America Football Conference.

In 1949, Brown hired Ewbank as an assistant in charge of tackles and kickers. Ewbank never had coached a line position and told Brown he did not feel qualified. Brown's response: "You'll do fine."

Ewbank proved to be an excellent line coach. As a former quarterback, he stressed pass protection. He insisted on live blocking drills every day. He taught proper technique, breaking down every step. "Weeb made pass blocking a science," says Parker, a Hall of Fame tackle with the Colts.

The Browns won the AAFC for a fourth consecutive season in 1949, after which the league disbanded, and

the Browns joined the NFL. Most NFL people considered the AAFC as a glorified sandlot league and the Browns a band of ragtags who didn't know what it meant to play a real professional team.

It was no accident the Browns' first league game was against the Eagles, the defending NFL champion, in Philadelphia. This was a chance to put the new kids in their place immediately. Imagine the shock when the Browns ripped the Eagles 35-10.

"[The NFL] thought it was going to teach us a lesson, but it was the other way around," Ewbank says. "Paul posted articles from the Philly papers where the [Eagles] talked about how it would be an easy game and we didn't compare to the teams in the NFL.

"Paul kept saying: 'These guys don't respect you. They think they'll walk all over you.' Our guys were ready to tear down the stadium. Really, it was no contest. We had a great passing team with Otto [Graham] throwing to Mac Speedie and Dante Lavelli. The Eagles could not cope with it."

The Browns went 10-2 that season and defeated Los Angeles 30-28 in the championship game. Ewbank remained in Cleveland for three more years before Carroll Rosenbloom hired him as head coach in Baltimore.

The Colts were founded in 1953 with some remnants of a Dallas Texans franchise and went 3-9 under coach Keith Molesworth that season. Ewbank faced a massive rebuilding job when he took over in 1954.

"We had maybe ten decent players," says Donovan, one of the quality holdovers, along with defensive end Gino Marchetti, linebacker Bill Pellington, and a defensive back named Don Shula. "The rest of the team was awful. We had guys, I swear, who couldn't make a good high school team."

Ewbank won three games his first season and five games each of the next two years. He drafted a fine nucleus: end Raymond Berry, fullback Alan Ameche, halfback Lenny Moore, and Parker. All the Colts needed was a quarterback. Ewbank found one in Unitas, a free agent who was cut by Pittsburgh in 1955.

"John was playing semipro ball," Ewbank says. "I got a letter from a guy who saw him and felt he could play in the NFL. I checked with one of our coaches, Herman Ball because he was with the Steelers when Unitas was there.

"Herman didn't think Unitas got a fair shot in Pittsburgh. He said the kid had a good arm, but he'd been nervous and had trouble calling signals. That happens with rookies. I

Weeb the Winner: *When Ewbank (pictured with Lenny Moore [24] and Johnny Unitas) led the Colts to a world championship in 1958, it marked his first of two NFL titles while in Baltimore.*

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

decided to bring him in for a tryout.

"We didn't have a movie camera to film him, so we took still photos," Ewbank says. "We looked at the pictures, and I liked his follow-through. I also liked the look in his eye. He was a tough kid. I said, 'Let's sign him.'"

Unitas emerged as the finest quarterback of his era, a superb leader who took the Colts to their first league championship in 1958 and successfully defended the title the next year. Ewbank designed an offense with a variety of formations, blending the skills of Moore, Berry, and Ameche behind a solid line anchored by the 6-3, 275-pound Parker.

"Weeb's genius was his ability to install an offense that covered all the bases, yet was very simple," says Berry, who led the NFL in receiving three consecutive seasons. "It allowed us to play at maximum efficiency because there was no indecision."

"Weeb knew the game and how to teach it," says Unitas, who threw 290 touchdown passes in 18 pro seasons. "He was very organized. We practiced for an hour and a half, and that was it. Once the game started, Weeb let me run the offense, which I appreciated.

"We had our differences. Whenever we played Detroit, Weeb said not to throw to Night Train Lane's side of the field. Hell, you can't let a defensive back have a free day, I don't care how good he is. So I'd throw over there and it always made Weeb mad.

"One time Night Train intercepted one in front of our bench," Unitas says. "I could see Weeb was upset. I reminded him we had scored two touchdowns on Lane earlier. I said, 'Weeb, I'll trade two scores for one interception any day.' He said, 'OK.'"

The high point of Ewbank's tenure in Baltimore was the 1958 title game between the Colts and Giants. It has been called "the greatest game ever played," and, with network TV bringing the drama into millions of homes from coast-to-coast, it helped send the popularity of pro football soaring.

The game was tied 17-17 at the end of regulation. No one, it seemed, knew what came next. "It was like a secret between the referees and the commissioner [Bert Bell]," Unitas says.

The captains were called to midfield for a second coin toss to be followed by overtime. The first team to score won the championship. The term "sudden death" became a part of the American vocabulary that day.

Salute: *Ewbank, arm in arm with Colts owner Carroll Rosenbloom, celebrates a 1959 title-game victory over the Giants.*

After the Giants took the kickoff and were forced to punt, the Colts got the ball, drove 80 yards in 13 plays and won the game 23-17 on a 1-yard plunge by Ameche. Unitas and Berry, who teamed for two completions on the winning drive, combined on a dozen completions for 178 yards in the game.

Forgotten in the drama of overtime was a scuffle that occured earlier between Ewbank and Sam Huff, the Giants' 6-1, 230-pound linebacker.

"Huff hit Berry near our bench," Ewbank says. "It was a real late hit. Berry was five yards out of bounds when Huff hit him. I lost my temper and charged Sam. I can't fight a lick, but I was pushing and shoving. Today, I'm sure I would've been thrown out. All they did that day was separate us.

"After the game, I saw Bert Bell," Ewbank says. "I apologized for what I did. Bert said, 'You were absolutely right. It was a late hit.' A few years ago, I was at the Super Bowl and someone whacked me in the back. I turned and there was Sam, grinning at me. He said: 'I'm getting you back for that championship game.'"

•

"Weeb's greatest strength was his ability to judge talent," says Marchetti, who was an all-pro nine consecutive years (1956-1964). "He saw things other [coaches] didn't see. Berry was a good example. He wasn't fast, he was a twentieth-round pick, but Weeb saw his ability to get open and catch the ball. The Steelers cut Unitas, but Weeb made him a starter.

"If Weeb had any shortcomings, it was on the discipline end. He was too nice a guy. He could build a great team, but he wasn't strict enough to keep it together. I talked to him about it. I said, 'Weeb, you gotta be tougher.' But he couldn't change. That was his personality."

That's not to say Ewbank lacked a temper. Marchetti recalls the coach wearing a dapper new hat during a game in Baltimore. The Colts won, and Rosenbloom, being superstitious, told Ewbank to wear the hat again the next week. The Colts won again and Rosenbloom told Ewbank to keep wearing the hat.

"The streak got to three or four," Marchetti says. "The next week, we got beat by three touchdowns and Weeb threw the hat on the ground and stomped on it. He shouted: 'Damn it, hats don't win football games.' I cracked up."

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Carroll Rosenbloom fired Weeb Ewbank after the 1962 season. His replacement was 33-year-old head coach Don Shula. Ewbank went to the New York Jets as head coach and general manager in 1963.

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The situation was similar to Baltimore in 1954: a losing team in search of a new identity. The team even had changed its name from the Titans to the Jets, hoping to bury the past.

It took Ewbank five seasons to take the Jets to the top. A dashing new owner, Sonny Werblin, signed Namath to a $400,000 contract, the richest in team sports at the time. Namath did for Ewbank in New York what Unitas did for him in Baltimore, elevating the team to a new level with his ability to make big plays from anywhere on the field.

"Joe was special, even as a rookie," Ewbank says. "He could throw the ball while backpedaling, throw from any angle. With John, every move was quick, choppy. His drop, his motion, it was boom, boom, boom. With Joe, it all seemed to flow. But they both got the job done.

"I was tough on Joe the first few years. I wanted him to realize it took more than physical ability to be a pro. One day in practice, he threw the ball into a crowd. I said, 'You should not have thrown that.' He waved his hand in front of my eyes, like I was blind. He said: 'Weeb, the pass was complete.' I said, 'I don't care. You shouldn't have thrown it.'

"Joe was spoiled in college. They let him do whatever he wanted. He came to New York, and our owner gave him all the money in the world. Somebody had to tell Joe 'no' once in awhile. That was my job. He finally realized I was doing it for his own good."

"I was a young guy who thought I knew it all," Namath says. "Weeb was my first pro coach and I thought, 'This is how it is.' It wasn't until later, after Weeb left and I played for other coaches, that I appreciated how good Weeb was. Every year I played, Weeb got smarter."

"Weeb knew how to handle players, especially players in that era," says guard Dave Herman, referring to the sixties, when bell-bottoms and long hair were both a political and fashion statement. "We had a lot of free spirits, guys like Joe, [wide receiver] George Sauer, Maynard. Weeb let them be, as long as they played.

"Weeb's attitude was: 'Don't sweat the little things.' Why make a big issue out of hair and dress codes? He got the most out of our team by treating us like men. Would Joe have been a better quarterback if he'd had a crewcut, or if he wore black shoes instead of white?"

Among the hundreds of files in his basement, Ewbank still has a sheet listing fines assessed during the 1967 season. Each offense is listed with the date and amount. Namath's name appears more often than any other player. Most of the fines are for being late to practice.

"Joe was not a bad guy and he was not the carouser he was made out to be," Ewbank says. "If Joe did half of what [the press] said he did, he would not have made it through one season. He had his fun, but it did not interfere with football. He was late from time to time, but it usually was just a couple minutes.

Weeb's greatest strength was his ability to judge talent. When the Steelers cut Unitas, Weeb made him a starter.

"No one on the team begrudged Joe anything—the money, the publicity, nothing. That's because when he stepped on the field, he was all-business. Most guys wouldn't attempt to play on knees injured as badly as Joe's, but he put those braces on and went out there week after week."

Namath's finest hour was Super Bowl III—the Jets' 16-7 win over a Colts team that had been favored by 3 touchdowns. For Ewbank, it was especially poignant—a game against the team he had coached, against the owner who had fired him, and against the coach who had succeeded him.

Ewbank downplayed the personal issues then, and he still downplays them. Sitting in his basement, sipping ginger ale from a Jets' glass, Ewbank says he was not out for revenge against Rosenbloom, Shula, or anyone else. All he wanted was to win the game.

"There was talk about the players wanting to win it for me because the Colts had fired me," Ewbank says. "I told them to forget it. I said: 'Go out there and win it for yourselves.'"

"Weeb handled it beautifully," says cornerback Johnny Sample, who played for Ewbank in Baltimore and New York. "After we won the [AFL] championship game, Weeb said: 'I don't want anyone in this room to think we can't beat the Colts. I won't say it to the press, but I'm telling you: We can beat these guys.'

"Weeb told us to keep our mouths shut before the game. If anything, he said, blow smoke at the Colts, make them even more overconfident. I saw a few [Colts] that week, guys I knew like [Tom] Matte and [Willie] Richardson. I could tell they were overconfident. They said, "We know you can play, Johnny, but what about those other guys?' They were laughing."

On Thursday, Namath made his now-famous appearance at the Miami Touchdown Club. Someone in the audience shouted: "Namath, the Colts are gonna kick your [butt]." Namath shot back: "I got news for you. We're gonna win the game. I guarantee it."

Ewbank knew nothing about the incident until the next morning when he saw the newspaper headline: "Namath Guarantees Victory." The coach was livid.

"I asked Joe why he did it," Ewbank says. "He said the [heckler] made him sore. I said, 'Shula will use this to get the Colts riled up.' Joe gave me that look and said: 'Weeb, if they need press clippings to get ready, they're in trouble.'

"There wasn't anything I could do. The story was already out. All I said was, 'You made the statement, Joe. Live up to it.' And he did."

More than a quarter century later, most of the Jets still have vivid memories of that Super Sunday. They remember the quiet bus ride to the

Well-armed teams: *Ewbank refuses to pick a favorite when asked about his two Hall of Fame quarterbacks, Joe Namath (above) and Johnny Unitas.*

VERNON BIEVER

Orange Bowl, the cloudy sky, the anticipation in the locker room.

Sample was uncharacteristically quiet. It was as big a game for him as it was for Ewbank, for many of the same reasons. He played three seasons with the Colts, played for the two championship teams, then was sent packing to the Jets in 1966 when NFL coaches didn't think he could compete anymore.

Sample understood the arrogance of the Colts. He was an NFL veteran himself, so he knew the attitude of the "established" league. In the previous two Super Bowls, Green Bay easily defeated the AFL champions, Kansas City and Oakland. The Colts were sure they would dispatch the Jets in similar fashion.

An hour before kickoff, Sample sat alone in the shower, dressed only in a T-shirt and athletic supporter. He closed his eyes and thought about the task ahead. Ewbank found his defensive captain while pacing around the locker room.

"Weeb had never seen me like that. He thought I was scared," Sample said. "He said, 'Don't back out on me now, John.' I laughed and said, 'Don't worry, Coach. I'm ready.'"

In his pregame speech, Ewbank told the players not to lift him on their shoulders at the end of the game. His hip was injured in the ride off the field after the AFC title game, and he did not want the same thing to happen here.

"Weeb said, 'So when we win this game…,'" Sample says. "I'll never forget that: '*When* we win this game.' He was so matter-of-fact about it."

The Jets played almost a perfect game, controlling the ball on the ground and making all the plays on defense. Sample had 1 of New York's 4 interceptions. Namath passed for 206 yards and won most valuable player honors. Ewbank had his third and final world championship as a head coach.

"I was happy for everybody, happy for the whole AFL, but I was especially happy for Weeb," says linebacker Larry Grantham. "He preached two words: poise and execution. We used them both to win. We had those words engraved on our Super Bowl rings. Every time I see it, I think of Weeb.

"He is one of a kind. Once we played the Patriots in Fenway Park. We were losing at halftime, and Weeb gave us a pep talk. He ended by saying: 'Let's get out there and win this baseball game.' He didn't even realize what he said, but it made us all laugh. We kicked the tar out of the Patriots in the second half.

"That's Weeb. Even when he got things wrong, he got them right."

The Jets' championship team held a twenty-fifth year anniversary reunion in New York two years ago. The former coaches and players were honored at halftime of a Jets-Cincinnati game. After the ceremony on the field, when the championship team was saying its goodbys, Ewbank broke down in tears.

"Weeb was sobbing and sort of collapsed," Sample says. "We were afraid he was having a heart attack. Curley Johnson asked him 'Weeb, are you okay?'

"Weeb said, 'I may never see some of you guys again.' It was sad. A lot of guys choked up, me included."

"I felt badly about that," Ewbank says. "I didn't mean to break down, but I love those guys. They did so much for me. I owe them everything. Four of my players [ex-Colts and Jets] died this year. Each one was like a death in the family.

"You develop bonds in this sport. I had a tackle, Sherman Plunkett, played for me in Baltimore and New York. I was always after Sherman about his weight. He was one of the first 300-pounders. I made him weigh-in once a week and fined him if he was over. Sherman thought I was picking on him. For years, we went back and forth.

"But I loved the guy. He was such a good person. I couldn't believe it after he was out of the game and I heard he had cancer. I went to see him in the hospital. He had tubes everywhere. As I was leaving, he said: 'Don't shake my hand, Coach. Hug me.'"

Ewbank weeps as he tells the story. Plunkett died shortly after the coach's visit. Ewbank still remembers how it felt holding the once-massive tackle, each of them knowing it probably was the last time they would be together.

"You never forget guys like that," Ewbank says softly. "You never forget the champions."

ROSS LEWIS

Fond farewell: *Ewbank tipped his hat to the crowd in 1973, after coaching the last game of his 20 seasons in pro football.*

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ERIC CHAMPNELLA and KEITH MITCHELL

Screen(writer) Patterns

Wow! I'm at the Super Bowl!

As you read the above, somewhere among the throngs of fans in Sun Devil Stadium at Super Bowl XXX, I too have just uttered that very same phrase. Again. Probably for at least the XXXth or XXXIst time (am I in the right frame of mind or what?) Believe me, it won't be the last. For right now, I am sitting among you, my fellow footballers (née fanpersons), attending my very first Super Bowl. Me! Right here! At the game! Hence the only thing I can think to say at this momentous point in my life is…

Wow! I'm at the Super Bowl!

Growing up in a suburb of Detroit, and long suffering with my beloved Lions, I never knew anybody who actually attended, in person, Super Bowls I through

Eric Champnella

XXIX. I never knew one of the lucky "them." Oh sure, each year my brother Brian and I would hear some unconfirmed report that a friend of a friend of a friend had tickets. Or that some guy from my dad's office knew somebody whose brother-in-law from Grand Rapids was going—so far removed it was like calculating monthly payments on a 30-year mortgage—but those reports never were verified. Rather, these yearly stories made their way around my neighborhood like some sort of football urban legend. Their factual basis carried as much weight as the tale of the kid who allegedly ate candy Pop Rocks then drank a Coca-Cola only to have his stomach explode from the volatile combination.

But not this time. For once, I'm going to make sure everyone back home in Michigan knows the truth.

continued on page 188

The Super Bowl is in everyone's minds. The Turkey Bowl is in my heart.

I remember the greatest game ever played. No, it wasn't played in front of thousands of people or a worldwide television audience. The game I've never forgotten took place in a run-down field behind Davidson Junior High in Southgate, Michigan.

It was the Wednesday before Thanksgiving in 1981 when the Drake Street Dukes squared off against the Old Homesteaders. Our names came from the parts of the city in which we lived. From first grade on we did not like each other much. Now we finally were going to settle the score—not in a gang fight but in the Turkey Bowl.

There have been some great Super Bowls. From Joe Namath's victorious prediction to Scott Norwood's

Keith Mitchell

gut-wrenching missed field goal to Joe Montana's last-minute touchdown pass, the Super Bowl has left its imprint on many people's lives.

The Turkey Bowl did the same thing for me.

The Old Homesteaders were loaded with talent. They had Sparks, the meanest kid in the eighth grade. He made Hacksaw Reynolds look like Barney the lovable dinosaur. Eric was the best looking and most popular. He's the only guy I knew who could get away with wearing parachute pants. Brad was the smartest and smoothest with the girls. Blaze was the best athlete in the world, or so we thought.

The Dukes weren't as fortunate. We had Andy, a tall, lanky kid who was a troop leader for the Boy Scouts. But what good does that do on a football field? Puberty

continued on page 190

That it is no longer simply a rumor. As of January 28, 1996, this boy's interest is coming from something more than someone else's hearsay.

Wow! I'm at the Super Bowl!

It's strange. When word got out I was attending this year's event, my friends started mentioning my name in the covetous hushed tones usually reserved for wishful chatter about lotto winners or surprise sweepstakes visits from Ed McMahon. Of course, I am only assuming it was me they were talking about because my birth name was never used. It was always, as you might expect, "That lucky S.O.B."

They say a man truly knows the depth of his friendships in times of need and despair. I beg to differ. I think you truly find out who your friends are when you latch on to a pair of Super Bowl tickets between the 40s. I never realized just how many friends I really have. Heck, I've got pals I never even knew, friends whose memories of good deeds past is, well, quite simply, amazing. Gee, I didn't know the price of fixing me up with one friend's cousin in tenth grade warranted such a high price some 14 years later. Must be the compound interest.

I'm now fairly convinced we could end many of the nation's problems and conflicts if only there were enough Super Bowl tickets to go around.

"President Clinton, Mr. Gingrich has agreed to drop his opposition to the proposed budget plan, *if* you'll say you're sorry, stop calling him a weeny, *and* throw in Super Bowl tickets for all the Republicans in the House of Representatives."

And the Super Bowl is not just an American phenomenon. It's international—being viewed today by hundreds of millions of people around the world. Hmm…

"Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Boutros-Ghali has a new proposal from Chechnya…"

Women probably just read the above with a small chuckle while many men are sitting there thinking, "Hey, he could be on to something!"

Wow! I'm at the Super Bowl!

Some decisions in life are easy: Porsche or station wagon? Three Stooges or Shakespeare? Do you want fries with that? The decision to write this was a similar no-brainer.

Last September, I was working on my latest screenplay when I got a call from the editor-in-chief of NFL Publishing. He told me that he had read about me and my writing partner in the *Los Angeles Times*, and, noting our love of sports, decided to give us a call. He explained what he was looking for, and named a list of people who also were writing a few words for the program. I was flattered, to say the least. But, I told him that, quite unfortunately and much to my dismay, I would have to pass because of a pressing schedule of screenplay work.

"Well," he said. "That's too bad. It would've been fun." He said that payment was either a straight buyout or a lesser amount of money—plus a weekend in Phoenix in late January, and two Super Bowl tickets.

There was a brief pause before I mumbled the only reply I could think of at the time, the Woody Allenesque, "Just a minute, I'll put Mr. Champnella on the phone."

They say a man truly knows the depth of his friendships in times of need and despair. I beg to differ. I think you truly find out who your friends are when you latch on to a pair of Super Bowl tickets between the 40s. I never realized just how many friends I really have.

Deadlines that had seemed so concrete only moments before now appeared to have certain flexibility. I really wasn't that busy. Hell, nobody was *that* busy.

Within minutes after we got off the phone, I was calling every person whose number I could retrieve from memory. For the next 45 minutes, I was a testimonial for MCI Friends and Family. During which time, after blurting out the above story, one unnamed—for-reasons-you'll-soon-understand—relative asked the mother of all stupid questions—"So which form of payment are you gonna take?"

Excuse me? How are we related again?

Some people claim baseball is America's pastime. The dictionary defines pastime as "an activity that occupies one's time pleasantly; something that interests, amuses, or diverts." Well, with no offense toward baseball, that sounds about right.

And how about football? I think it's America's passion. That same dictionary defines passion as "boundless enthusiasm…an abandoned display of emotion." Yeah, that sounds about right, too.

If you're at the game, look around you. I'd be willing to guess that even if the game hasn't started yet, you can probably spot a little boundless enthusiasm. Even if you're not attending the game in Arizona, check out those you're watching the game with (and I know you are watching the game with someone because nobody watches the Super Bowl alone. I think it's in the Constitution).

So, if you look around the stadium or watch carefully on TV, you just might see a bit of that passion coming from my seat. I won't be hard to spot. I'm the guy with the wide-eyed contagious grin. Having the time of my life. Yelling at the top of my lungs…

Wow! I'm at the Super Bowl!

"The whole thing is for me to get myself into a kind of trance.

bang

"Once I'm in the kayak I start to go over a pretty long checklist in my mind, but as I stare down at the finish line I start to tune out all the distractions, and everything gets really quiet and calm. Then comes the explosion, and in that split second it all changes.

"It's hard to describe; it's like I don't really *feel* anything. I'm just totally focused on the million details that go into each stroke—adjusting, fine tuning, increasing, decreasing. You just push yourself more and more until you don't have anything left—and then you find some more.

"My brother tried to figure out how far I've paddled. My average training speed is about ten miles an hour, and I've been doing serious training about three hours a day since I was seventeen. It comes out to be a little less than three times around the world.

"But I don't know if I'm good enough to make it onto the National Team. I want to, and I think I can do it. I've got to try.

"My mom thinks I shouldn't let Atlanta be the only goal in my life, but I can't not think about it."

1

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U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

© 1995 C.I.C. Photo: Brian Hill

At Champion International Corporation, we manufacture paper and wood products. We also admire the personal tenacity it takes to excel in this sport and are proud to be the official sponsor of the U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team.

didn't treat John very well. Rodney was quick, but he had to stand on his toes to do his locker combination. And I was the proverbial bull in a china shop.

The odds weren't exactly in our favor. I think the Chargers had a better chance against the 49ers last year. There was no bonus money, no commercial endorsements, and no Disneyland. We played for the most prized possession of all—pride!

The rules were simple. First team to score four touchdowns would win. Two completions for a first down.

We won the coin flip and got the ball first. I was playing center and Rodney was our quarterback. Sparks lined up over me. I was petrified. He was a monster. On the first play he blew by me and sacked Rodney. The same thing happened on the second play. Needless to say, our receivers weren't much help lying on their backs. Our first possession was a joke. Along with our second, third, and fourth possessions. Meanwhile, the Homesteaders scored three touchdowns and needed one more to win.

We called time out, and I couldn't help but look down at my Kellen Winslow jersey (number 80) and wonder if he would give up right now. I told the guys that it wasn't over. We still had a chance, I said. They looked up at me and wondered which game I was watching. Then it hit me. We were afraid of these guys from the beginning. We were afraid of failure, afraid of showing up at school on Monday and having everybody know we got killed. We had let the hype of the game get to us.

Now I was no Chuck Noll or Tom Landry, but it dawned on me that just because I was biggest did not mean I had to play the line. And just because Rodney was the quickest didn't mean he had to play quarterback. Since Andy was the leader of his Boy Scout troop, he'd probably make a better quarterback. We all changed positions. On our next possession, little Rodney lined up at center against Sparks. I lined up at receiver, Andy at quarterback, and John at the other position. The strategy worked. Sparks couldn't get around Rodney. John started to get open. Our Boy Scout quarterback designed some great plays. We scored our first touchdown.

We decided to do the same thing on defense. Rodney rushed the quarterback. I moved back to play linebacker. My size (I was tall for my age at 13) made it hard for the quarterback to find his receivers. We stopped them cold. Eventually, we tied the score.

Everyone on the field was exhausted. We had played for almost four hours now and it was getting dark. We finally had to switch to an old glow-in-the-dark Nerf football. My big brother showed up and said that I had to go home for dinner. No meat loaf was going to interrupt this battle royale. A few of the other guys' siblings showed up with similar complaints. But the game was too important.

Another hour raced by, and our parents began to show up one by one. Uh-oh! We begged and pleaded our case, and they let us continue. I think they all were in the football spirit because the Super Bowl was coming to Detroit in a few months. They even turned their car headlights to face the field so we could see better.

"After nearly six hours of football, the most amazing thing happened: It started to snow... It was magical...The eight of us stood silently looking at one another. Did we continue to play? Did we finish on another day? Finally the answer came in the form of a snowball..."

Blaze had a sure touchdown pass knocked out of his hands by Andy. Brad made a diving catch on the 5-yard line, but the next pass was intercepted by John. It went back and forth. There were great plays on both sides of the ball. Even the parents were bickering.

Finally, about 10 o'clock, after nearly six hours of football, the most amazing thing happened: It started to snow. It didn't just trickle, it poured. It was the first snow of the year and the field glowed. It was magical. We tried to continue to play, but we couldn't walk, let alone run, without slipping and falling. Our parents all went back to their cars.

The eight of us stood silently looking at one another, our energy and enthusiasm drained. Did we continue to play? Did we finish on another day? Finally the answer came in the form of a snowball. Sparks packed a snowball and heaved it at me. I made a snowball and chucked it at Brad. There we were, in the biggest game of our lives, having a snowball fight. There was no loser that night. The game ended in a tie.

The Drake Street Dukes and the Old Homesteaders would become inseparable in the months that followed and ultimately would merge to become the Titans on the high school football team. It was a pretty good team, too.

As I get older I can't help but remember the day we all formed that bond—a bond that has lasted. Those are my best friends in the world.

So I'm wondering what goes through the minds of great NFL players before they take the field for the Super Bowl. I hope they don't let the hype get to them because this really is only a game. Who knows? In 15 years, win or lose, this could be their Turkey Bowl.

Only in our little game we didn't think about going to Disneyland afterwards. We only thought about going home.

ru h

"The truth is that at first it can get a little lonely. During the winter, we're usually at the boathouse about two hours before it gets light out.

"But there's this great team thing that you feel. And that's the funny part about rowing—I don't think there's any other sport where there's almost no way for someone to be the star. When we're in the water, our entire focus is the boat—we lose all sense of self—and we become this *thing* with eight oars. And when we get into perfect sync, there's nothing else like it. And we all know if someone's not pulling their share—you can just *feel* it—so we live by a funny kind of honor code where we're all going at one hundred percent all the time.

S

"No matter how hard anyone trains, we're only as good as all of us together. You learn a lot about trust that way.

Champion
Champion International Corporation
3
Official Sponsor
USRowing

"It will get really intense when we start to concentrate on making the National Team in '96. The whole selection process is pretty nerve-racking. The hardest part will be if someone from my boat gets chosen instead of me—but I guess I'd have to be happy for them. I don't really want to find out what that's like, though, so I just tell myself that I'm going to Atlanta—and I'm doing everything I have to do to get there."

© 1995 C.I.C. Photo: Brian Hill

At Champion International Corporation, we manufacture paper and wood products. We also admire the total commitment it takes to excel in this sport and are proud to be the official sponsor of the U.S. Rowing Team.

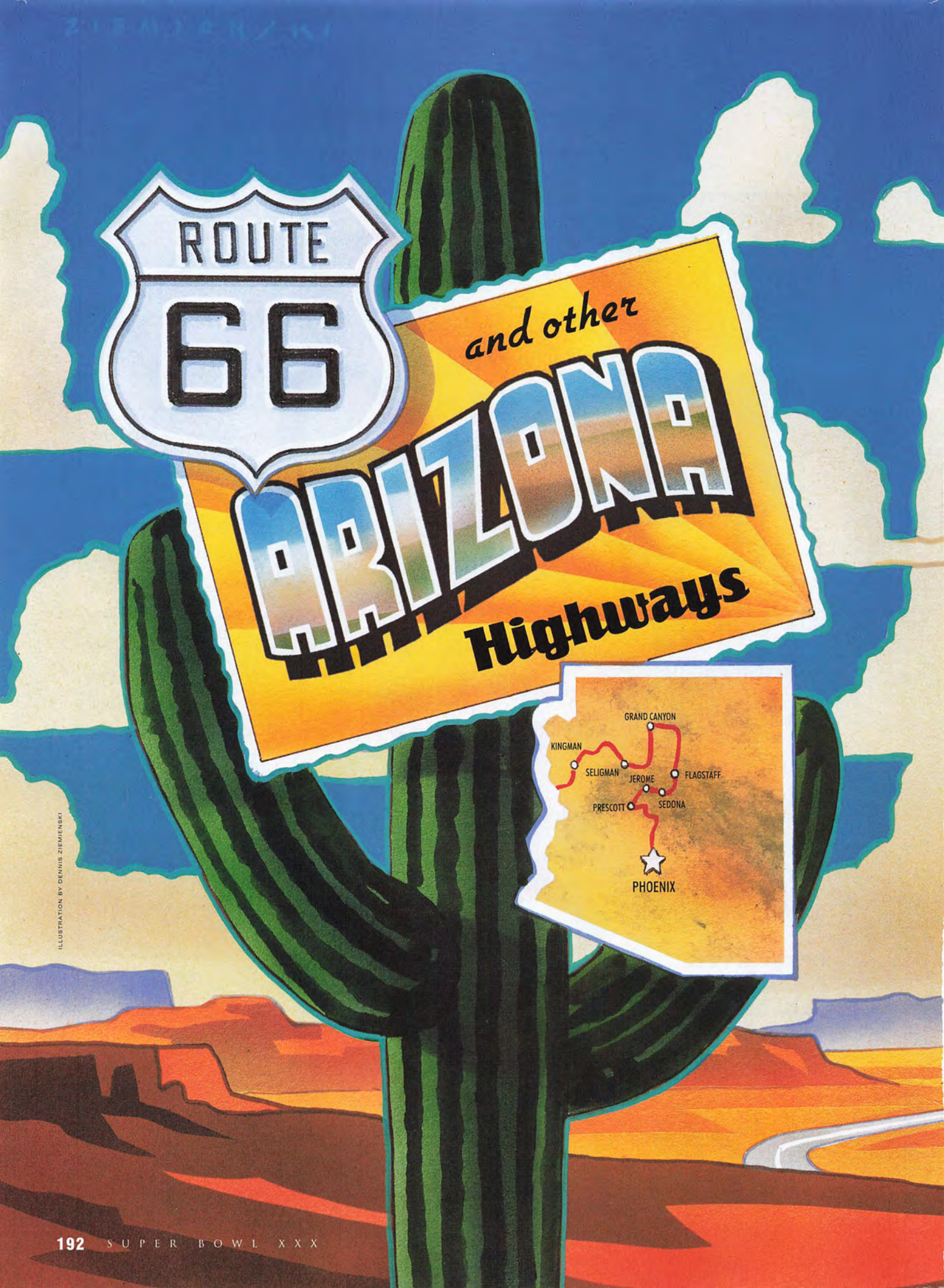


ILLUSTRATION BY DENNIS ZIEMIENSKI

A Single-Family Odyssey From Kingman to Phoenix

Text and Photographs by Phil Bamber

ARIZONA IS THE GRAND CANYON STATE. IT SAYS SO ON THE LICENSE PLATES.

AS MARKETING STRATEGIES GO, THIS ONE'S A NO-BRAINER. ENTICE THE WORLD'S TRAVELERS INTO THE YAWNING RED MOUTH OF THE CHASM, ARIZONANS REALIZED, AND THEY NO DOUBT WOULD BUMP INTO A FEW OF THE STATE'S OTHER WONDERS.

THEY ARE PLENTIFUL. ARIZONA IS A 7,000-HOLE MINIATURE GOLF COURSE, A PLAYGROUND OF EERIE SANDSTONE FORMATIONS, LUSH FORESTS, ANCIENT RUINS, COWBOY HISTORY, RICH NATIVE CULTURES, AND FORBIDDING DESERT. AND AROUND THESE NATURAL ATTRACTIONS HAS SPRUNG THE ARTIFICIAL SCENERY OF THE TOURIST HIGHWAY: THE REPTILE FARMS, POLKA-DOTTED TEEPEES, PETTING ZOOS, AND CRYING JESUS IMAGES THAT SPROUT LIKE DANDELIONS NEXT TO THE TRAFFIC.

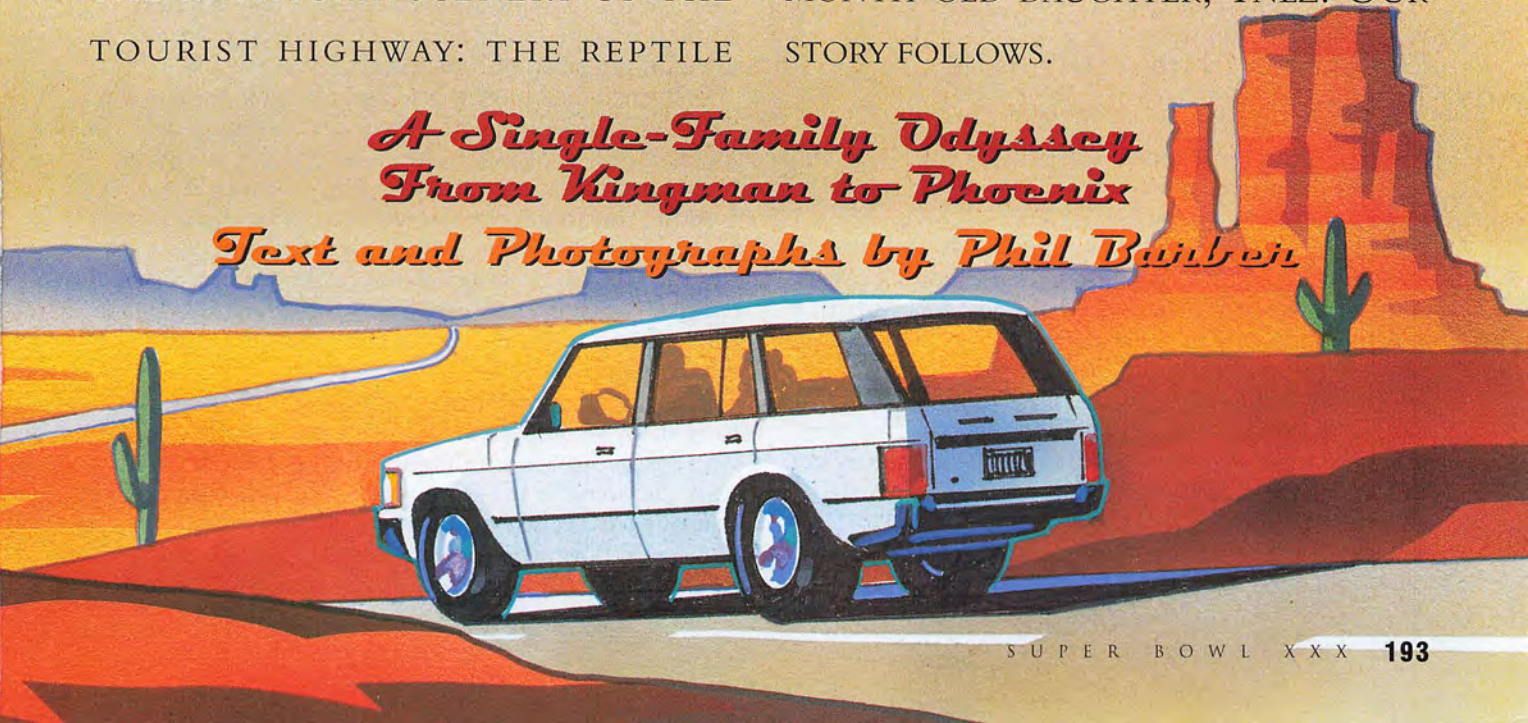
THE PEOPLE WHO PRODUCE THE SUPER BOWL PROGRAM ASKED ME TO EXPLORE THIS WORLD—THE BEAUTIFUL, THE KITSCHY, THE BITTERSWEET, THE WEIRD.

Have Baby, Will Travel

Looking to meet strangers on the road? For bait, the author suggests a cherubic, 5-month-old baby.

AS THE SUPER BOWL ITSELF HAS DONE IN THE LAST 30 YEARS, I WAS TO START IN LOS ANGELES, TAKE A WINDING AND UNPREDICTABLE COURSE, AND END UP IN PHOENIX. (WITH FEWER BLOWOUTS ALONG THE WAY, I HOPED.)

FOR NAVIGATION I TOOK A ROAD MAP AND AN INNER COMPASS AS RELIABLE AS A USED YUGO. FOR BAIT I TOOK MY WIFE, KARA, AND OUR 5-MONTH-OLD DAUGHTER, YNEZ. OUR STORY FOLLOWS.



Kingman

As launching pads go, this might not be Cape Canaveral, but it was a start.

Unfortunately, our timing was off. We were a month late for the Western Regional Conference on UFO, Sci-Fi, New Age, and Alternative Health (including a workshop for abductees)…and a couple of days too early for the Arizona Knife and Gun Show.

At the City Cafe, I noted the rattling signs outside and asked if it always was so windy in Kingman. "Not like this," the elder waitress said, poking my baby in the tummy.

A younger waitress had a different opinion. "I moved here a year ago," she said, "and I feel like the wind has not stopped blowing for a minute."

Route 66

It has been rhapsodized, glorified, and packaged so thoroughly that it's hard to distinguish the myth of U.S. 66 from the actual pavement. "The Mother Road" exists only in bits and pieces today. Here it's a downtown street, here a frontage road, here it disappears into the weeds. Still, it's making a comeback aboard a wave of nostalgia.

Get Your Kicks…

U.S. 66 is a strand of neon motels and desert weirdness surrounded by vast open spaces. Bob Waldmire (above left) of the Route 66 Preservation Society is the highway's self-appointed protector.

Route 66 once took displaced farmers and restless pleasure-hounds the width of Arizona, from Lupton (on the New Mexico border) to Topock (California-adjacent). Interstate 40 mirrors most of that original route, with one major, 148-mile exception: Topock north to Kingman, then a looping eastward camelback to Seligman (that's Sa-LEEG-man).

Kingman is one of the true outposts of sixty-sixiana. Our port of entry was the Hill Top Motel, which edged out the Ramblin' Rose, the Brandin' Iron, and the Siesta on the strength of "Best View in Kingman." They are neon-seductive remnants of a migratory era, though not all have made the transition with equal success.

The road from Kingman to Seligman is 93 miles of open range, with deep horizons, sprinting tumbleweeds, and little evidence of human habitation.

One of the few stopovers is Hackberry, home of the International/Bioregional Old Route 66 Visitor Center & Preservation Foundation. It's a small establishment with a very long name, the polar opposite of, say, the Pentagon.

The interior of the building was enough to make a Route 66 aficionado think he had died at the wheel of a '48 Buick and gone to heaven. There were Route 66 books, Route 66 maps, Route 66 videotapes, Route 66 calendars, Route 66 postcards, Route 66 buttons, Route 66 candle holders, and Route 66 chili mix. I know because I catalogued the inventory in my new Route 66 notebook. Songs about Route 66 jingled in the background.

This shrine is the creation and obsession of Bob Waldmire, a soft-spoken, billygoat-bearded man who had just returned from a one-man bus caravan along a certain fabled highway. En route he had passed 70-year-old Margie McCauley (and Lollipop), a woman (and dog) who were nearing completion of an historic walk along the length of 66. An independent film crew had arrived to record the momentous intersection.

(Incidentally, significant contributions to Twentieth-Century American culture happen to run in the Waldmire family. Bob's father, Ed, invented the corndog. It was called the Cozy Dog when Ed introduced it in Springfield, Illinois, in 1946, but the familiar icon of a smiling, battered hot dog on a stick was unmistakable. Don, Bob's assistant, showed me how two wieners could be grasped in an original Cozy Dog fryer and lowered into a vat of boiling lard.)

Eastward, the creosote and jagged mountains of the high desert slowly gave way to a land of long, high mesas topped by piñon pine. We were ascending the Colorado Plateau, as the cold wind reminded us.

Along this lonely stretch we encountered the Grand Canyon Caverns. The express elevator took us 21 stories into the earth, where we were introduced to some depth-distorting chambers and a mummified bobcat, undisturbed (well, except for the spotlight) in its final resting place.

The cavern experience was dominated by our informative, well-spoken, and strangely sadistic guide, who insisted on reminding us at every turn that we were chancing death in the caves—or, more precisely, that our odds of survival were much lower than his. He would not retrieve us if we plummeted over a ledge; he wouldn't carry us out if we twisted our an-

kles; and if the lights went out, he would abandon us in utter blackness.

Halfway through the tour, he aimed his flashlight at a giant boulder wedged above us and noted that he, alone, stood beneath a narrow protective overhang. Despite the collective will of 10 tourists, a chunk of stone did not break from the pack, careen wildly, and thump him squarely on his ranger hat.

Seligman

At the Historic Route 66 Motel (formerly the Navajo), I bent down to examine a spider—black with a red triangle—in front of room 107, just as the motel owner happened by. "Cool spider," I blurted.

Splat!

"He ain't gettin' in my room," the owner said, dampness trailing from her foot as she sauntered away. A short while later she took her two miniature poodles, gray and neatly coiffed, for a stroll through the parking lot.

> ***"The Canyon just seems to bring out the best in its visitors. Maybe it's that we all feel so fortunate to be there, staring into 10 million years of vivid geology..."***

At the Copper Cart restaurant, a woman told the cashier that "the boys just took off to go paint the *S*," a reference, certainly, to the towering letter that clings to a hillside overlooking the town. "I bought the paint yesterday. I told 'em, 'This is for Seligman, not Kingman,' and the guy gave me ten percent off."

At the OK Saloon, a hand-lettered sign announced a big buck contest. First place went to Widest Rack; second place went to Most Average.

Arizona 64/U.S. 180

You know you're getting really close to the Grand Canyon when the teepees, dinosaurs, and totem poles begin to materialize. We bypassed these old-school attractions and headed straight for the cutting edge of roadside schlock: Flintstones Land, where the chill wind in the parking lot realistically imitated the onset of an Ice Age.

Ynez was wearing so many layers of clothing that her limbs stuck straight out from her trunk, and still her teeth chattered—or would have if she had any. Because of the severe weather conditions, we decided I should tour Bedrock City alone. It was just no place for a kid. The girls missed a primary-colored prehistory of rock volcanoes, rock trains, and rock jails. Two non-threatening "Goatasauruses" nibbled grass in a rock pen.

Grand Canyon

"It'd be a helluva place to lose a cow."

That was how one early puncher supposedly summed up Grand Canyon. It was as good an attempt as any to describe the indescribable.

Perched 50 feet from the precipitous south rim of the canyon is El Tovar Lodge, a landmark of rustic elegance since it was built, primarily by Hopi Indians, in 1905. Something about El Tovar makes you want to light a Cuban cigar and gaze pensively into a glass of port.

Life on the Edge

Cartoon characters? Indian trinkets? The Grand Canyon must be close at hand. Even venerable Hopi House (left) sells souvenirs.

Kara and I had to run fakes and reverses to get Ynez through the lobby and past an ever-present formation of cooing grandmas. Good cheer seemed to vibrate through the establishment on a ripple started, no doubt, by the famous Harvey Girls. You might expect people working alongside one of the wonders of the world to be happy about it. Guess what? They actually were. One waitress had worked in Grand Canyon National Park for 18 years. A bartender had been there 8 years, her husband (whom she met at El Tovar) 13.

The attendants weren't the only ones walking around with goofy smiles, either. The Canyon just seems to bring out the best in its visitors. Maybe it's that we all feel so fortunate to be there, staring into 10 million years of vivid geology while others have to, you know, work. Or maybe it feels too pointless to rush around and act annoyed—the usual vacation role play—in the face of such immensity and stability. It might make you feel a little too much like a cockroach.

Along the Rim Trail, a legion of tourists leapfrogged the vista points in buses, cars, and Nikes. (Average length of stay for the 4.5 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park in 1995: 10 hours.) The pass-

ing flow of humanity provided constant sound bites, left bare in a contextual vacuum:

"When I'm sixteen I won't be with you; I'll be with my friends."

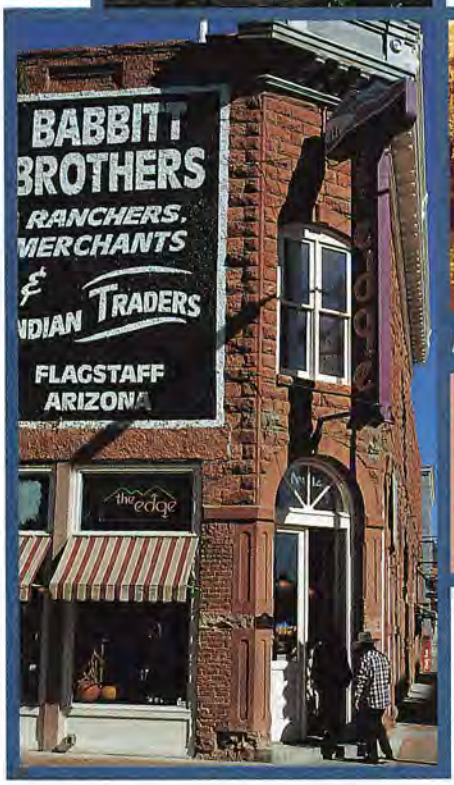
"You're not supposed to feed them. There's a fine."

"Eighteen holes at the Grand Canyon. Can you picture it?"

"He didn't say he wanted a country hat. He said Western."

"Look for me on the Jungle Cruise this winter," a park ranger said on an educational walk. He was making fun of his job at the canyon being a seven-month gig.

The ranger's smile faded when he was asked to characterize modern usage of the park and the Colorado River. Some of his more salient points: There are about 7,000 visitors for each park ranger here; because of Glen Canyon Dam, the first of five between Utah and Mexico, the canyon's beaches are being washed away and not replenished; and, despite what it says on maps, the Colorado no longer reaches the Gulf of California in an unbroken line.



All that talk about water made me thirsty. In the El Tovar lounge, jovial bartenders Ruben and Elizabeth told me about George Bush's presidential visit a few years back. It seems Air Force One was too big to land on the existing runway at Grand Canyon Airport, so they chopped down a healthy stand of trees—more than a little ironic, considering Bush had arrived to publicly honor the National Park System.

The entire Bush Administration appeared to be under fire at the canyon. When Dan Quayle took a vacation rafting trip, the powers-that-were opened the gates at Glen Canyon Dam to give the then-Vice President a more exciting ride. (The plan backfired when Marilyn Quayle tumbled out of the raft and injured herself.)

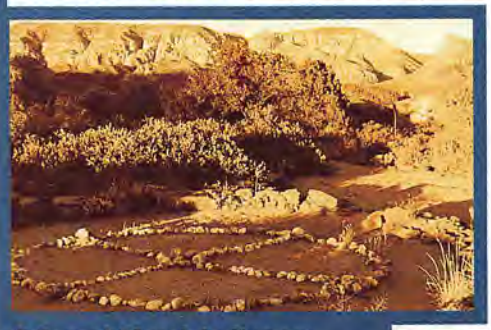
The panorama from the Desert View watchtower, our last, was as good as any. "Richard, you get offa there," a woman called.

Richard was approximately 55 years old. Something about the Grand Canyon just does that to you.

Arizona 64/U.S. 89

They say the Navajo Reservation is a particularly difficult place to scratch out a living, but the small corner we crossed practically shimmered with beauty. The Little Colorado Gorge would have its own IMAX presentation if it were anywhere but down the road from you-know-what. At one point on 64, we looked across miles of pale green scrub to the buttes in the distance; it looked seamless, but a bit of elevation and a new angle revealed that the sweep of land was punctured by the 300-foot gorge.

We stopped at one of the shamelessly advertised trinket bazaars (Get-um Good Deal!) to examine the turquoise, silver, and sandstone. A boom box in one of the stands went from "Hotel California" to haunting tribal vocals.



A Forced March to Heaven

In Flagstaff, the old downtown (left) has a new coat of paint and a revitalized spirit. From there, it's 25 miles, a hundred scenic vistas, and (most likely) bumper-to-bumper traffic to magnetic Sedona.

At Chief Yellowhorse's Trading Post, there were trailers with satellite dishes.

Flagstaff

The Twilite Motel was the shabbiest place in which we stayed in Arizona. There was a lot of peering around drapes. And when I tried to check the pilot light in our wall heater, the whole grill came down on my head.

We were in ranch country, and we were thinking "red meat." At Horsemen Lodge, on the outskirts of town, the main dining room was populated by the heads of four elk, two moose, one bighorn sheep, one snow goose, one javelina, and some sort of gazelle that I couldn't identify. Over the salad bar, a stuffed mountain lion looked ready to pounce on the bacon bits at any moment. My trout was large enough to terrorize a beachside community.

The "What's Happening in Flagstaff" calendar in our room back at the Twilite informed us that, well, nothing was happening the next day. We ventured out anyway, stopping for breakfast in the wonderfully refurbished downtown area, which had celebrated its "Grand Opening" the day before.

We drove on to Walnut Canyon National Monument, where a ranger was trying to dissuade a group of older visitors from descending into the canyon. We

decided to take the plunge, followed closely by an old man with a cane.

Walnut Canyon is a remarkable site. In a steep, wooded ravine sit some 300 cliff dwellings, carved by the Sinagua about 800 years ago, before the tribe mysteriously disappeared. Because the shelters make use of one jutting layer of limestone, they all were built at the same depth. They look like a line of luxury boxes in a prehistoric stadium.

Arizona 89A

The world-renowned drive from Flagstaff to Sedona was like a forced march into heaven. As impressive as the soaring red cliffs of Oak Creek Canyon are, a solid hour's time seemed a bit excessive to move 25 miles. When I closed my eyes that night, I still could see the Mercury Tracer (license plate: MHD 738) that we tailgated the entire way.

Sedona

If Tom Mix could see the place now. Sedona once was *the* setting for Westerns, the red rocks and chaparral serving as perfect scenery for quick draws and sweaty hombres. But the only remaining ties to those days are the bronze bucking-bronco statuettes that sell for $1,000 in the air-conditioned shops.

> ***"Sedona once was the setting for Westerns, the red rocks and chaparral serving as perfect scenery for quick draws and sweaty hombres."***

Shake Your Medicine Rattle

Consider it the holy trinity of Sedona tourism: the arts and crafts (top), the great outdoors (right), and the wide spectrum of New Age spirituality (above).

Sedona looks like one long, up-market mall, where even the McDonald's is dressed in pink and lime pastel. Tlaquepaque is billed as an artist's colony, but do they really sell refrigerator magnets and napkin rings at artists' colonies?

We found sanctuary at Country Gardens bed and breakfast, where the morning meal was far removed from the ketchup cafes we had been frequenting. It was a civilized affair, with chamber music and flavored coffee and polite laughter.

The Railroad Inn couldn't match Country Gardens's charm, but it did have one advantage: *Monday Night Football* in the restaurant bar. As it happened, I got to see one of the best games of the season, Kansas City's 29-23 overtime victory against San Diego.

The bartender was one-quarter French, one-quarter Irish, one-quarter Yaqui Indian, and one-quarter Aztec. While Marcus Allen dodged tacklers, she spun an intriguing tale. She and her husband had found an old noose—and the bones of the unlucky party, strewn next to it—at a place called Fossil Creek. A few weeks later, they did some research—with a Ouija board. They turned up all the vital statistics, as yet unconfirmed by the county clerk. (Any relatives of an unjustly lynched Apache named Hugh Fippy should contact Bernie's Restaurant in Sedona.)

Sedona, Part II

What would a trip to Sedona be without a visit to the New Age Information Center? There I found enough brochures and fliers to drown the island of Atlantis. Channeling, energy-field therapy, rapid-eye processing, astral projection, reflexology, vision quests—you name it.

I settled on a vortex tour, and the next morning I was climbing into an old van. In the driver's seat was Suzanne, my medium, and in back, sitting on four-inch-thick foam pads, were Mary, Julie, and Clara, three Spanish-Italian sisters from Manhattan. "If you're wondering what we're doing," Clara said, her voice sounding as if she had just inhaled helium, "it's *reiki*."

Mary was kneading Clara's knee while Clara worked on Julie's wrist. The sisters all were wearing crystals around their necks and new lightweight hiking boots on their feet. Each was about 5 feet tall, shaped a bit like a penguin, and unflaggingly peppy. On our drive to the vortex, Mary pointed to a trifurcate rock formation and said, "We've decided to call that one the Three Sisters."

"And the shortest one is me," Clara added.

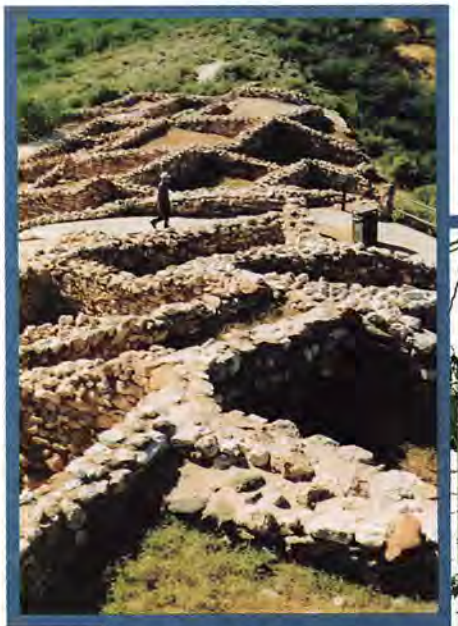
In Boynton Canyon, we gathered in a circle in the foamy rear of the van. "I am Suzanne," our leader began, "and last night I had a very exciting experience. My husband Glen and I have decided to birth a book, about where to eat and shop in Sedona. Today, I am looking forward to leading you all on a path of discovery and awareness. A-ho!"

"A-ho!" the sisters echoed. It would take me a while to catch up.

We were presented with two optional hikes—to Kachina Woman Rock, supposedly an exceptional place for meditation, or a more strenuous path to some Indian ruins. Suzanne told us to close our eyes and contact our spirit guides. They would tell us where to go.

I was first. I thought about passing, but this was no poker hand. *Something*, I said, was directing me toward the ruins. Unfortunately, our spirit guides could not come to a consensus. We had to do it again.

I was in a quandary. I didn't want to bully anyone into the ancient dwellings; on the other hand, I thought it would be unseemly if my spirit guide flip-flopped. So, fraudulent as it was, I made up a little story. "I saw an Indian woman grinding corn into meal," I said. "And behind her flew an eagle…or maybe a hawk."



Suzanne nodded knowingly. The other visions were equally vague—at least to me—but Suzanne announced afterward that we were on our way to the Indian site. First, though, she would have to ask permission from the local authorities. She closed her eyes and shuddered. "Chief Thundercloud is here," she said, proceeding into a lengthy roll call. ("Priestess White Calf says she is an incarnation of Isis," Suzanne added parenthetically. "We should know that.")

Life in the Past Lane

Between Sedona and Prescott, beware of sudden time warps. Above: the excavated Sinagua pueblo at Tuzigoot National Monument. Right: The beautifully faded glory of Jerome.

The trek itself was slow-going. The suddenly nervous sisters were as foreign to hiking as Chief Thundercloud would be to hailing a cab on Park Avenue. "Aren't they adorable?" Suzanne whispered to me.

And, yes, they were. They were too endearing to annoy even me. They kept up a constant patter, supporting and herding one another like mother hens.

"Mary, are you too tired? Do you want to rest?"

"Give me your hand. It's steep here."

At the top of the path, tucked into the hillside, were the remains of shelters, just like the ones at Walnut Canyon. I stood on a rock to take in the breathtaking views of Boynton Canyon. "Phil, please, not so close to the edge," Mary pleaded.

Then I got smudged. We all did. Suzanne lit some aromatic sage and ran the smoldering tray around each of us. "It's like washing you with smoke," she said.

We were instructed to meditate. Suzanne set the mood by climbing out on a ledge and shaking a rattle in the bright sun, her pink bonnet glowing like a Duraflame log. Clara had about 40 small rocks—crystals, sandstone, obsidian, etc.—arranged before her. Julie circled her animal cards like covered wagons. The magical near-silence finally was broken by Clara: "Mary, get out of the sun, dear. You'll burn."

Jerome

Jerome, Arizona, seems to have escaped the modern world by hiding behind burly Cleopatra Hill. This mountainside village lived by the grace of the United Verde Copper Company, and it almost died when the last mines were nailed shut in 1953. Once considered a ghost town (hence the Haunted Hamburger, where we had dinner), Jerome has made a modestly triumphant return as the artist's loft of Arizona.

At Jerome State Historic Park, I tried to watch a videotape about the town's history, but had to leave the room when Ynez got the hiccups and made everyone giggle. After that we had breakfast at the English Kitchen, billed as the oldest functional restaurant in Arizona (established 1899). We wondered if the blackberry pie always had been this good.

Driving over the mountain toward Prescott, we passed a road sign that read PLEASE DON'T LITTER. It was riddled with bullet holes.

Prescott

If Phoenix is the thriving hub of present-day Arizona and the Grand Canyon is the international icon, Prescott (that's PRESS-cutt) is the heart of the state's rawhide roots. What sort of town is Prescott? Its defining legend involves a state legislator, a prostitute named Jennie, and a glass eye.

Maybe the vacation spirit was starting to seep into my bones, but I swear Prescott was the friendliest place I've ever visited. If Ynez cried at dinner, we just deposited her with someone at the next table.

Downtown Prescott has experienced various levels of restoration. The crown jewel is the elegant Has-

sayampa Inn, but we decided it was *too* nice.

We wound up at the Hotel St. Michael on Montezuma Street, a.k.a. Whiskey Row, a seat of debauchery for a century. The hotel was built in 1900, and the original tin roof still covers the lobby, as well as the Caffe St. Michael (croissant and knockout coffee included in the room charge) and some retail space.

Though we had to admire the single-minded focus of the Bead Museum, the Sharlot Hall Museum was meatier. It was a collection of restored, relocated, and/or recreated buildings from the late 1800s, jammed with the household and workplace trappings of the era. The information desks were occupied by a battalion of outgoing, perky grandmother types.

I watched a woman named Lee stitch a quilt that her grandmother had begun in 1909. Lee loves quilts. She was working on another with some fellow Cowbelles, the wives of local ranchers.

That evening, the Badgers of Prescott High were in a fervor. Homecoming paraders were drumming through the streets, bearing banners that urged the football team to Roast the Indians… Bury the Indians…. A few unlucky younger brothers had been rounded up, stripped shirtless, painted like braves, and tied together on one of the floats. They looked humiliated.

> ***"Our last night in Prescott, I could ignore Whiskey Row no longer. The old custom, I read, was to down a shot in every joint from the Kentucky Bar to the Depot House..."***

That's *Pres*-cutt, Pardner

Prescott is the heart of cowboy country. It's slow-paced, friendly, and occasionally rowdy on Whiskey Row (middle right), home of the Bird Cage Saloon (right).

Finally, on our last night in Prescott, I could ignore Whiskey Row no longer. The old custom, I read, was to down a shot in every joint from the Kentucky Bar to the Depot House—39 saloons away. Heeding my aversion to alcohol poisoning, I simply ducked down the block to the Bird Cage Saloon to hear some swampy blues-rock. It was a typically authentic Row establishment, with swinging doors, a long pine bar, and hunting trophies.

The scene was decidedly down-market at the Bird Cage, a curious brew of aging bikers, pumped-up cowboys, and rockers. The barmaid, the bouncer, and a funereally dressed woman were discussing the approach of Friday the thirteenth, and all the weird things that had been occurring. "I think the best was when Timmy tried to ride his bike into the bar last week," the bartender said. "We didn't stop 'im until his front tire was pokin' through the door."

It was about then that two well-dressed older ladies bustled into the room, their eyes dancing. No, they didn't care for a drink. "We just want a peek," one of them gushed. "This saloon is *won*derful."

"Oh, look at this case!" her friend squealed.

It was full of dusty taxidermed birds. I realized that this hilariously incongruous scene must be played out regularly on Whiskey Row in 1995.

Arcosanti

Not far from the middle of Arizona or the middle of nowhere is Arcosanti, Italian architect Paolo Soleri's visionary colony. Part commune and part windbell cottage industry, the village is a study in earthy practicality. They reclaim water, exploit seasonal weather variations, use shady areas to create ventilation, watch TV (no cable).

"You might imagine," our professorial tour guide added, "there are a lot of Trekkies here."

I-17

A southerly descent to Phoenix took us into the dry heart of saguaro cactus country. The Arizona place names were right out of Louis L'Amour: Bloody Basin Road…Big Bug Creek…Horse Thief Canyon… Dead-man Wash. I had the sudden urge to chew on a blade of grass and squint.

Phoenix

A siren's song of attractions awaited 2½ tourists in Phoenix: the Buffalo Museum of America; the Desert Botanical Garden; the Arizona Science Center ("…touch a snake, and much more!"). After breakfast in Tempe on a sparkling-clear autumn morning, we stopped at the Hall of Flame, a firefighting museum that's as faithful to the profession as a good Dalmatian. There were dozens of exquisitely restored pumpers from every era of industrialization, including a 1915 American LaFrance Type 75 triple combination that

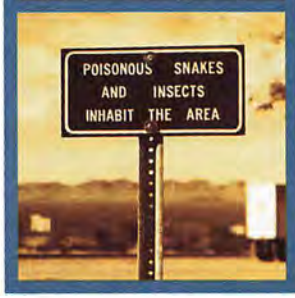
ROAD GAMES

Match the celebrity to his or her observed behavior at Grand Canyon.

A. Drew Barrymore
B. Cher
C. Tony Danza
D. Emilio Estevez
E. Demi Moore
F. Oprah Winfrey

1. Ordered a bloody Mary for breakfast, a Miller Lite for lunch and dinner.
2. Came to film an exercise video but hiked only 200 yards down the trail.
3. Stood up and acted bossy in the restaurant.
4. Changed rooms when two young staffers camped outside door.
5. Checked in at night, stayed in room all day, checked out at night.
6. Made a fuss about the lack of vegan alternatives on the menu.

For solution, phone Ruben or Elizabeth at the lounge of El Tovar Lodge, on the south rim.



Six of these are authentic towns in Arizona; six are fictitious. Can you spot the phonies?

A. Bad Cough
B. Bumble Bee
C. Hogwash Creek
D. Mexican Water
E. Nothing
F. Pumpernickel
G. Rib Cage
H. Show Low
I. The Gap
J. Thhpp
K. Why
L. Why Not

Real towns: B, C, D, E, H, I, K

Match the Arizona town with its piece of trivia.

1. Kingman
2. Flagstaff
3. Phoenix
4. Prescott
5. Sedona

A. Where Clark Gable and Carole Lombard were married.
B. It was almost named Schnebly.
C. The Official Christmas City of Arizona.
D. Escaped U-boat captain hid out there for 35 days in 1944.
E. Where the planet Pluto was discovered.

Answers: 1.A, 2.E (at Lowell Observatory), 3.D, 4.C, 5.B

could board for a snapshot, yellow jacket and all.

We retired to our motel, the Desert Rose. It wasn't so long ago that the east end of Van Buren Street, which doubles as the business loop of U.S. 60, was the most festive place to overnight in Phoenix.

Lately, though, it has sunk into the unforgiving flatlands of the American central city. The Rose is holding out against the sad march of time (and neighborhood economy) that already has claimed its neighbors—the Crest, the Lone Star, the Mayflower.

Van Buren wasn't anything like the safe, clean, and generally pleasant Phoenix of which we had been hearing. But we found that, too, at the home of our friends John and Barbara Wyman. They live in Fountain Hills, named for its pride and joy: the world's largest fountain (560 feet high). I felt like Ahab looking for its plume on the horizon as we approached on the Bee Line Highway.

The Wymans moved to Arizona when John capitalized on a business opportunity in 1979. A few years later he was offered a job closer to the Wymans' former home in Irvine, California, but the couple came to an unexpected conclusion. They were so infatuated with Arizona they didn't want to leave.

I could see their point as I stood on their deck at dusk and peered at the jagged silhouette of the Superstition Mountains, where the Lost Dutchman supposedly guarded his famous claim. Fountain Hills is a prime spot for stargazing—the lights of Phoenix are behind a hill, and there are no stoplights in the community. John claims he has spotted 150 varieties of bird sitting in his back yard. They get bobcat, javelina, and coyotes on the golf course. Yeah, and eagles. (Ha, ha)

The scene at the Desert Rose pool wasn't as pleasing, but it was strangely riveting. A cheery old British woman on holiday waded into the pool, placing a great deal of faith in two tiny orange water wings. A guy from Buffalo named Ray, his cigar stub as thick as it was long and his wrinkled skin like molten bronze, was listening to wartime standards on the community radio.

Joe, Ray's pal, used to be a waiter at the Sands, once home away from home for an impressive lineup of professional sports teams. We talked about his encounters with Joe DiMaggio, and he showed me a plastic bag full of memorabilia, including personal Christmas cards from the widow of Lefty Gomez.

I sat enthralled. This was human drama on a Grand Canyon scale. I was witnessing a mobile society in the process of fading into our national past, buried beneath an eight-lane interstate and a chain of Ramada Inns. In most places, I suppose, it's gone already. Arizona's vast spaces and rugged character have preserved the tourist's heyday well beyond its life expectancy.

As we left early the next morning, I cradled my baby and whispered a short prayer of thanks: "We are travelers from California. I am happy we could see Arizona in all its natural glory and unnatural quirkiness."

"A-ho."

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PAUL ROGERS

The Game

From late summer all through autumn
Into winter every year
Men and boys from town and country
Daily don their football gear.
And they run and sweat and swelter
Or they'll bounce to fight the chill
And they practice and they scrimmage
Working hard to hone their skill.
They pursue and dodge and fake out.
And they charge and turn and dive.
Thrust themselves at one another.
Dance a jig and slap high five.
Tape their fingers, wrists, and ankles.
Block the punt and study plays.
Dump big tubs of ice on coaches.
Hit the lockers in a daze.
They hand off, rush and sweep, and trip.
Fight jock itch.
Warm the bench.
Smear polish underneath their eyes.
Miss first downs by an inch.
They miss the tackle.
Miss a chance.
Might miss some Friday classes.
They miss not sleeping in a lot
And miss a lot of passes.
They're bruised and scraped and stepped on
But then right back up they jump.
They cuss the call. They huddle.
Pat each other on the rump.
Their fingers sting. They bellow steam
As moist air starts to freeze.
They flap caped wings and stomp their feet
To warm extremities.

They're gargantuan-looking monsters
In their helmets and their pads
Like the gene pools went awry
Between their mothers and their dads.
They call time out. They call a foul.
They call in their defense.
Call home to tell the folks they won.
Call overtime intense.
Call plays in from the sideline.
When it's close, call in the chain.
But it calls for a disaster
'Fore they'll ever call a game.
They learn the worth of teamwork
What it means to pull their weight
Earn respect and rings and letters

(continued on next page)

Learn to eat their supper late.
They tear ligaments and jerseys.
Plagued with fouls and injuries.
Make the catch and make up yardage.
Make mistakes and memories.
Make the news and interceptions.
Make the block that makes the hole.
Make a meat loaf for the pot luck.
Make it to the Super Bowl.
They adjust themselves in public!
Guzzle lots of Gatorade
And they go into hysterics
Every time a touchdown's made.
They use their intuition.
Use up all of their time outs.
They use a cup and mouthpiece
And they use recruiting scouts.
They use their cleats for traction
And their status on the team
To secure a date on prom night
With the school's homecoming queen.
Use their kicker to make field goals.
Go for the extra points.
Use strong-smelling rubbing balm
To loosen up sore joints.

They hike and spike and pile high
Upon the frozen ground
And they stop the clock from ticking
When the ball goes out of bounds.
They sack quarterbacks and fumble.
They stiff-arm, sneak, and blitz.
Shout encouragement to teammates.
Throw their helmets in a fit.
They go through camps and clinics
And they sometimes go through hell.
But think they've gone to heaven
If they reach the NFL.
Football's become synonymous
With special holidays
Like New Year's and Thanksgiving
Even Christmas nowadays.
It is as much American
As stories by Mark Twain.
As exciting as a rodeo.
As macho as John Wayne.
It is cheerleaders and glee clubs.
It is chess-like strategy.
It is comedy and drama.
It is floats and pageantry.
It's the Heisman Trophy winners.
Pros becoming household names.
It's the guys who coach Pop Warner.
It's the fans who go to games.
It's watched in bars and barber shops
In restaurants and at home.
It stirs up strong emotion
With a language of its own.
To some the game seems harsh
And often calls for sacrifice
But can teach a strong work ethic
And prepare one well for life.
It exercises traits we'll need
To help us to progress
And develops tools to work with
On our push towards success.
Like a staunch determination
And the will to never quit.
Like sportsmanship and fortitude
Commitment, pride, and grit.
And realizing that all people
On certain points are flawed,
In football we've a coach to lead
In life we have a God.
In both games we will get out
Nothing more than we put in.
We must accept those blows we take
If we expect to win.
But life's great lesson's there for us
To run with if we choose:
If we but give the best we've got,
We'll never really lose.

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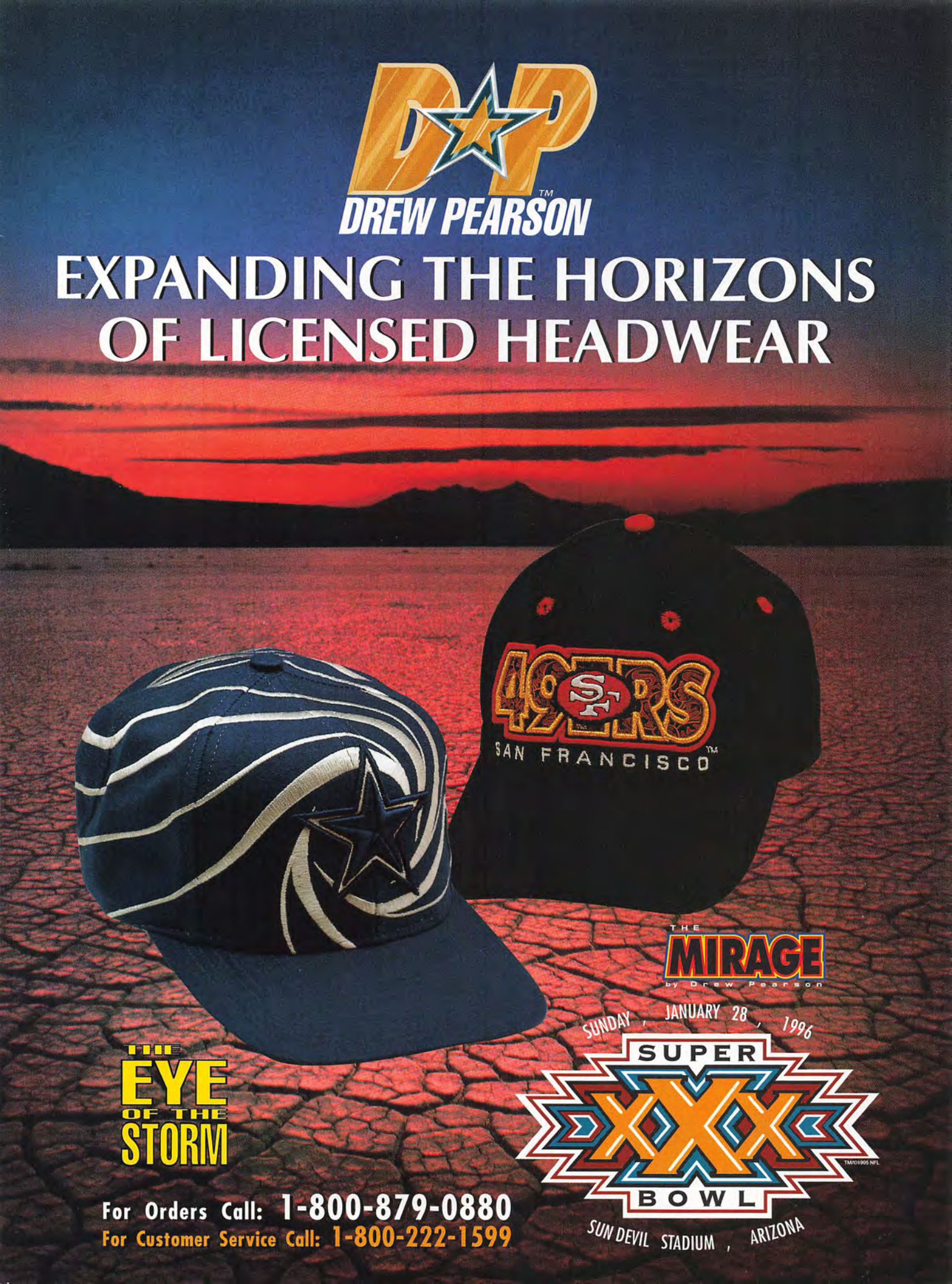
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FOOTBALL'S PLACE

A merciless sun broils the skin as the thermometer glows bright red. A perspiration-soaked jersey hangs from your shoulders and visions of swimming pools dance in your head. Then the coach utters the three words you've been waiting to hear: "Hit the showers."

Just another day of football in Arizona.

Arizona didn't get an NFL team until 1988, but the state is no stranger to the game. Its high schools and colleges have contributed a steady stream of players to the NFL. There were more players from Arizona on NFL rosters in 1995 than at any previous time.

Of the state's three major universities—Arizona, Arizona State, and Northern Arizona—Arizona State was the first to field a football team, in 1897. Arizona followed two years later and Northern Arizona (then called Northern Arizona Normal) first suited up a team in 1915.

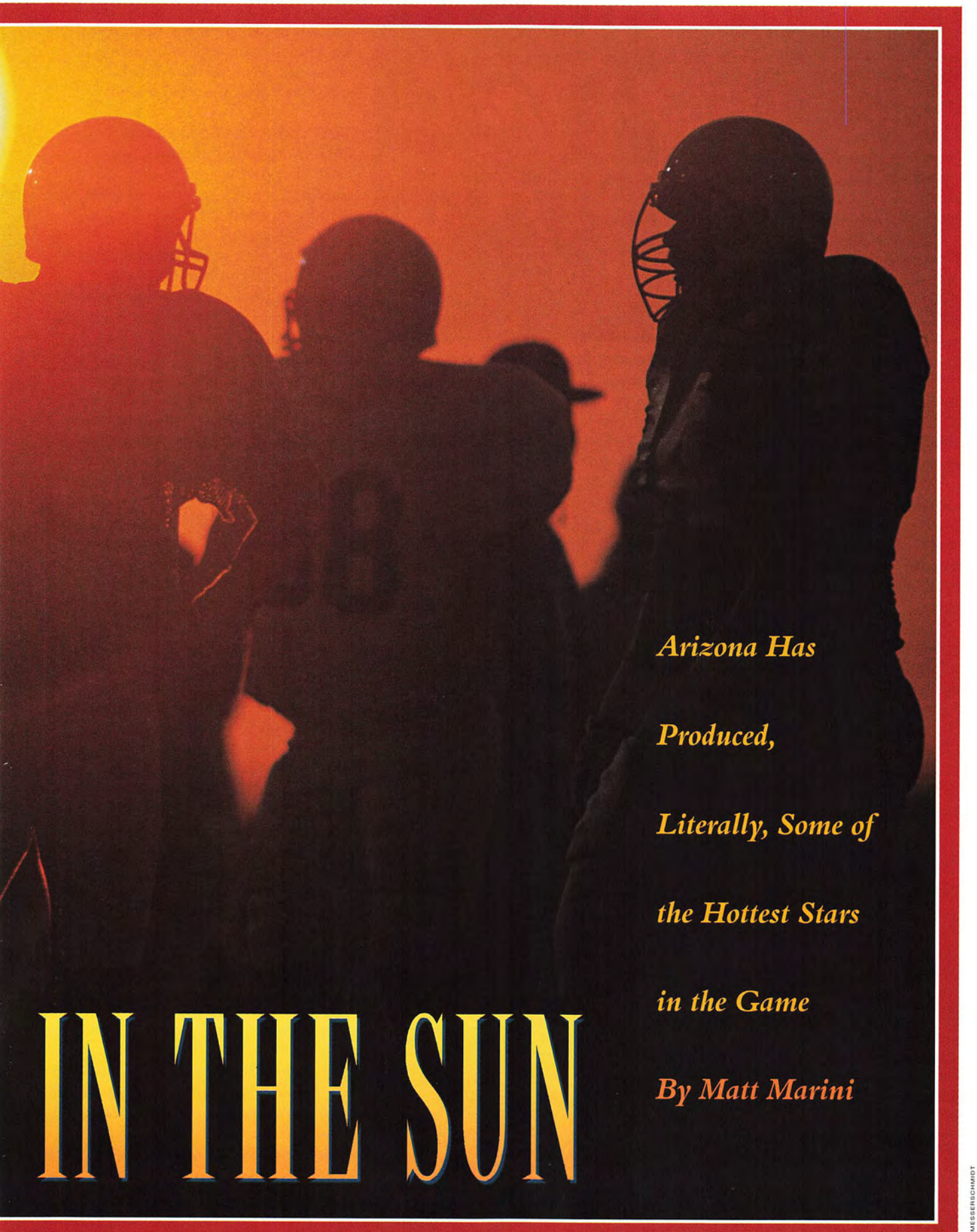
The University of Arizona received a bowl bid as early as 1921 (the East-West Christmas Classic in San Diego), but lost 38-0 to Centre College of Kentucky. Nineteen seasons later, Arizona State played a scoreless tie against Catholic University of Washington, D.C., in the 1940 Sun Bowl.

And for five years (1948-1952), Phoenix hosted the Salad Bowl. It was hardly the stuff of gridiron legends, but Arizonians quietly were leaving their imprint on the game.

The versatile Lee (Brute) Mulleneaux of Northern Arizona, the state's first representative in pro football, competed for six NFL teams from 1932-38. By the late 1940s, it was not uncommon to find a player from Arizona on NFL rosters.

Meanwhile, Arizona State set out to improve its program. The Sun Devils reached across the country to hire Ed Doherty as head coach. Doherty had played quarterback for Boston College in the 1940s. "I didn't even know where Arizona was," he says. "But I came out and saw the place. It was very nice and small, which I liked. I thought I would enjoy it, and I did."

Doherty coached in Arizona for five decades, becoming the only person to coach both ASU (1947-1950) and Arizona (1957-59). He also led



IN THE SUN

Arizona Has Produced, Literally, Some of the Hottest Stars in the Game

By Matt Marini

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

St. Mary's High of Phoenix to two state championships during a six-year stay and directed Salpointe Catholic High of Tucson to the 1981 state championship game.

The state's first collegiate star was Wilford (Whizzer) White of Arizona State, not to be confused with Byron (Whizzer) White, the Colorado All-America who became a United States Supreme Court justice.

"The best ball player I ever coached was White," says Doherty. "He could run, pass, kick, receive. And he did it all better than anyone else—even the specialists."

White still holds several ASU records, including rushing yards for a season (1,502) and the longest kickoff return (100 yards). He was the first ASU player to earn All-America consideration, when he was named to the *Associated Press* second team in 1950.

Doherty thinks that White's popularity was one reason Sun Devil Stadium was built in 1958. "We would sell out our home games because of Whizzer White," Doherty says. "I believe his presence brought the demand for a new stadium."

Several coaches contributed to the growth of the sport. Dan Devine compiled a 27-3-1 record in three seasons (1955-57) at ASU. His 10-0 team in 1957 was ranked twelfth in the nation by *AP* and *UPI*.

Frank Kush followed in 1958 and stayed for 22 seasons, during which the Sun Devils recorded a .764 winning percentage (176-54-1). His 1975 squad, which defeated Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl to finish the season 12-0, ranked second in the nation behind once-beaten Oklahoma.

Kush's era ushered in high national rankings and players that would go on to solid NFL careers.

"Kush was a motivator," says Charley Taylor, a running back at ASU from 1961-63 who later earned a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a wide receiver. "I really liked him right from the beginning. He was an extremely fair man, but he was tough."

How tough?

"We lost to Wichita State in the first game of my senior year," Taylor says, "and Kush was so upset that after the game we went to the practice field, where he had us scrimmage against each other. A lot of the fans from the game followed us to the practice field to watch, too. We won a lot of games in my career at ASU, but I'll never forget that loss."

PETER READ MILLER

Passing fancy: *A record-setting passer at Arizona State, quarterback Danny White played 13 seasons for the Dallas Cowboys.*

It was the Sun Devils' only defeat in the 1963 season.

"The games were a respite from Kush," says Danny White, a quarterback who went on to a 13-year NFL career. "The practices were very intense. He worked us until we couldn't run anymore.

"A lot of guys couldn't handle it, and they left. My senior year [1973], there were only six of us left from our freshman class. The rest of the seniors were JC players. But those of us who stuck around were glad we did. All six of us got pro contracts."

In Kush's wake came Darryl Rogers, who coached the Sun Devils from 1980-84 before leaving to coach the Detroit Lions. John Cooper, now with Ohio State, was the Sun Devils' head coach from 1985-87, guiding the team to its only Rose Bowl appearance after the 1986 season.

"EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD PLAY NIGHT GAMES ONLY IN SEPTEMBER, IT STILL WOULD BE A HUNDRED DEGREES AT KICKOFF."
--DANNY WHITE

The blazing sun and intense heat are the most unmistakable aspects of football in Arizona. Since the Cardinals arrived in Tempe in 1988, they have played only three day games at home in September.

"The weather was a definite advantage, especially early in the season," Danny White says. "Even though we would play night games only in September, it still would be a hundred degrees at kickoff."

"The heat is a huge factor," says radio commentator John Mistler, a former wide receiver who prepped at Tucson's Sahuaro High and Arizona State before playing for the New York Giants (1981-84). "Just being in the heat drains you."

To minimize the sun's impact, teams retreat to cooler climates in August. The Cardinals train at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

But what about during the season?

"The hottest time of the day is between two and five in the afternoon," Mistler says. "A lot of the high schools practice in the morning, while others just gut it out. The Cardinals have tried practicing at all different times of the day, but they have settled on going from about nine in the morning to noon."

Every coach has his own philosophy on how to deal with the heat.

"ASU did not have a practice facility with lights," Doherty remembers, "so we had to practice in the afternoon and just try to find a way to survive.

"We [the coaches] were pretty tough on them, looking back. My first season at ASU [1947], we were told not to let the players drink a lot of water. We wanted to see how tough they were and also not slow them down. But remember, that was fifty years ago. After that first season, I decided that they could drink as much water as they wanted."

Mistler thinks that training techniques have increased the ability of today's athlete to cope with the heat.

"In high school, my team went to

Arizona Stadium and ran up the steps of the stands, relying only on salt pills to keep from being dehydrated.

"Then at ASU, they said water was the best thing to have in your system. But this was before water bottles and carts. So we had hoses running to the practice field.Today, players do not have to worry about such extreme measures to get liquids."

Practicing day after day in the heat does have some advantages. "When I reached the pros," Taylor says, "I couldn't believe how much easier the conditioning was. I would have guys begging me in practice to stop running. The conditioning from ASU definitely carried over."

"Kush's whole philosophy was mental toughness," White says. "So when it came to the fourth quarter and the game was close, we felt we would win, especially at home."

"Those big boys from Utah and Utah State would come down to Phoenix and melt like butter," Taylor says. "By the third quarter they were dead on their feet.

"The games were a lot of fun because we knew we were in better condition than any team we faced."

•

Arizona colleges have produced two players who are enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In 1952 John Henry Johnson found his way to Arizona State after Saint Mary's College disbanded its program. He went on to rush for 6,803 yards and 48 touchdowns in 13 seasons in the NFL and AFL. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1987.

Taylor, who left ASU as a first-round draft choice of the Washington Redskins in 1964, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame 20 years later. "My final choice [of colleges] came down to Arizona State and Southern Cal," Taylor says. "They both had palm trees and sun, but Phoenix reminded me a lot of Texas [Taylor was from Grand Prairie, a Dallas suburb]. I knew it was the place for me. A few snakes, bugs, some horses—I felt at home."

Taylor was the first Redskins player to win NFL rookie-of-the-year honors and the first rookie in 21 seasons to finish in the NFL's top 10 in both rushing (sixth) and in receptions (eighth). A halfback-turned-wide receiver, he led the NFL in receptions in 1966 and '67. His 90 touchdowns are a Redskins' career record.

"THOSE BIG BOYS FROM UTAH AND UTAH STATE WOULD COME DOWN TO PHOENIX AND MELT LIKE BUTTER."
--CHARLEY TAYLOR

Danny White, a quarterback and punter for the Dallas Cowboys for 13 seasons (1976-1988), arrived at ASU by way of Westwood High in Mesa, Arizona. The son of Wilford (Whizzer) White, Danny graduated as the NCAA's all-time leading passer and held seven NCAA records. At Dallas, he passed for nearly 22,000 yards and a club-record 155 touchdowns, one of 13 Cowboys passing marks he holds or shares.

"It was a dream to play at ASU," says White. "If I just sat on the bench, I would have been thrilled."

White had been an all-state selection in three sports in high school: baseball, basketball, and track. In fact, he went to Arizona State on a baseball, not a football, scholarship.

Crafty cornerback: *Mike Haynes, a two-time All-America at Arizona State, excelled during 14 seasons in the NFL.*

PETER READ MILLER

"Kush really wasn't interested in me until the state's all-star football game in Flagstaff my senior year," he says. "I played free safety in the first half and had three interceptions, and in the second half I played quarterback and threw three touchdown passes. We won 21-20."

White began his college career as a defensive back and a punter. "I was on a baseball scholarship," he says, "so I was not even considered a quarterback candidate. It took some amazing circumstances for me to wind up at that position. There were some injuries, some transfers, and I suddenly became the starting quarterback in my sophomore year."

The Sun Devils posted a record of 11-1 in 1971 and had one of the nation's most explosive offenses. White has fond recollections of the Fiesta Bowl that season.

"The game was a shootout—we defeated Florida State 45-38—and the entire game just went back-and-forth. We would drive down the field and score a touchdown, and then Florida State quarterback Gary Huff would come right back and throw a bomb. I believe we had twice the possession time, but we had to score in the final minute to win the game."

•

The list of Arizona products who went to the NFL is impressive.

The highest-drafted player was cornerback Mike Haynes, a consensus All-America at Arizona State, who was selected by the New England Patriots with the fifth pick in the 1976 draft. He was selected for nine Pro Bowls in a 14-year career.

Among other Sun Devils to leave their marks on the NFL were linebacker Bob Breunig, who played in three Pro Bowls during his Dallas Cowboys career; John Jefferson, a sure-handed wide receiver for the San Diego Chargers, and the first player in NFL history to gain more than 1,000 receiving yards in each of his first three seasons; defensive tackle Curley Culp, who was selected to six Pro Bowls in 14 NFL seasons; and quarterback Mark Malone, who *caught* the longest touchdown pass in Pittsburgh Steelers history (since tied)—a 90-yard completion from Terry Bradshaw in 1981. (Malone also owns the NCAA record for longest

touchdown *run* by a quarterback—98 yards against Utah State in 1979.)

Arizona State products currently in the NFL include guard Randall McDaniel of the Minnesota Vikings, the pride of Agua Fria High in Avondale, Arizona. He has been selected to seven consecutive Pro Bowls. Six-year veteran Anthony Parker, a product of McClintock High in Tempe, is a cornerback for the St. Louis Rams. As a member of the Minnesota Vikings in 1994, Parker set an NFL record by scoring a defensive touchdown in three consecutive games.

Safety Darren Woodson of the Cowboys and cornerback Phillippi Sparks of the Giants are NFC East rivals, but the two defensive backs once were high school teammates at Phoenix Maryvale.

The University of Arizona has had seven players chosen in the first round of the NFL draft: running back Walt Nielsen (in 1939 by the New York Giants), guard Bill Lueck (1968, Green Bay Packers), defensive tackle Mike Dawson (1976, St. Louis Cardinals), linebackers Ricky Hunley (1984, Cincinnati Bengals) and Chris Singleton (1990, New England Patriots), defensive end Anthony Smith (1990, Los Angeles Raiders), and tackle John Fina (1992, Buffalo Bills).

Nielsen retired after one NFL season. Lueck, who attended Agua Fria High, started for five seasons before being slowed by injuries. Dawson played nine years. Hunley, a two-time consensus All-America, had a seven-year NFL career. Singleton is a starting linebacker for the Dolphins. Smith, after sitting out his rookie year with a knee injury, reached double figures in sacks each of the next three seasons. Fina, from Tucson's Salpointe Catholic High School, has been a mainstay on the Bills' offensive line.

But Arizona's NFL legacy doesn't end there. Linebacker Mark Arneson, a local product from Palo Verde High, played in 104 consecutive games during a nine-year career with the St. Louis Cardinals. Theo Bell, who holds school records for career receptions and receiving yards, played 10 seasons with Pittsburgh and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Linebacker Byron Evans, who attended Phoenix's South Mountain High, twice led the Philadelphia Eagles in tackles in eight NFL seasons. Paul (Cactus Comet) Robinson, a Tucson native who attended Marana High, led the AFL with 1,023 rushing yards in 1968 as a member of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Arizona products who are active in the NFL include Houston Oilers safety Chuck Cecil, the school's all-time interception leader; wide receiver Vance Johnson of the Denver Broncos, a graduate of Tucson's Cholla High; and cornerback Darryll Lewis of the Houston Oilers, who has returned 3 interceptions for touchdowns in five seasons. Nose tackle Rob Waldrop who prepped at Horizon High in Scottsdale and was the only unanimous All-America in Arizona history, was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 1994.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NFL INCLUDES SEVEN WILDCATS SELECTED IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE NFL DRAFT.

Northern Arizona's best-known gift to the NFL is wide receiver Michael Haynes of the New Orleans Saints. When he was with the Atlanta Falcons in 1991, Haynes averaged a league-high 22.4 yards per reception. Northern Arizona alumnus Rusty Tillman is defensive coordinator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Many Arizona high school products have gone on to outstanding careers. Linebacker Fred Carr, who played at Phoenix Union High, appeared in three Pro Bowls for the Green Bay Packers. Six-time Pro Bowl tight end Steve Jordan, who attended Phoenix South Mountain High, played 13 seasons for the Vikings. Defensive end Mark Gastineau, who attended Springerville High, made the "sack dance" a personal trademark while with the Jets. Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Rodney Peete was a three-sport standout at Tucson's Sahuaro High.

One of the hottest football rivalries in the nation pits Arizona against Arizona State. The three largest crowds in ASU history have attended that game.

Arizona holds a 40-28-1 series advantage, and the sweetest of all the victories took place in 1982. Arizona State, with a roster that included 13 players who would be drafted by the NFL, brought a 9-1 record into the game against 5-4-1 Arizona. Arizona won 28-18, knocking the Sun Devils out of the Rose Bowl. Sun Devils fans on the other hand, will remember 1992, when their 5-5 team posted a 7-6 victory over nationally ranked Arizona.

The most memorable of all the games between the two rivals may have been in 1975. The Wildcats, ranked eleventh in the nation, entered the game at 9-1, and ASU (10-0) was ranked sixth. A crowd of 51,388 packed Sun Devil Stadium to watch ASU win a 24-21 thriller, highlighted by John Jefferson's diving touchdown reception just before halftime. ASU finished 12-0 and ranked second in the nation. The Wildcats finished thirteenth.

At least one player from an Arizona university has been selected in the NFL draft each year since 1960. Twenty-seven players from the three universities have been chosen in the first round, the latest being cornerback Craig Newsome of Arizona State in 1995. (He started for the Green Bay Packers as a rookie.)

But not until the arrival of the Cardinals in 1988 did Arizonans have an NFL team of their own.

"The Cardinals coming to Arizona has not only allowed the fans to see the Cardinals," says sportswriter Don Ketchum, a Phoenix native, "but it has given them the opportunity to see the NFL in general."

But this year is special in Arizona. The Super Bowl has arrived. The NFL, literally, has found its place in the sun.

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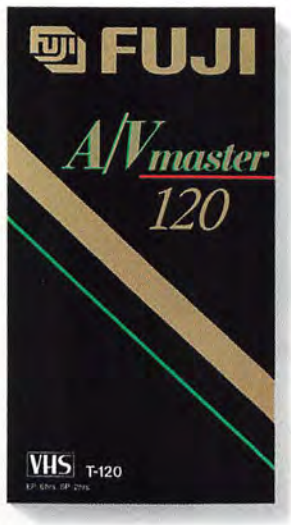

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The Athlete in a State of Grace

Pentathlon athletes are the most beautiful men in Greece—they are as strong as they are swift.

—Aristotle

I always have admired the phrase "state of grace." It is, for me, a concept that holds high promise and infinite possibility. In a state of grace, one stands on the verge of extraordinary achievement, the realization of something nearly beyond mortality. In my parochial childhood, the phrase implied a religious circumstance, a condition of innocence or spiritual zeal. But it is, rather, as in the words of Aristotle, an equation of aesthetic distinction and physical prowess—beauty and action, if you will, form and function in exceptional union and unique expression. In a sense this is a valid definition of sport, of athletic competition.

To witness the performance of an athlete in a state of grace is to remember it forever. Here are a few I remember.

On a summer evening in Arizona, I climbed into the stands above the track. It was dusk. In a few minutes the track and the infield were flooded with bright light. People were coming into the stands, but the crowd was sparse. The runners had begun to appear from the dressing rooms. There was a general excitement, a vague, delicious tension on the evening air. I felt that something remarkable was about to happen. And so it was.

When Edwin Moses appeared, walking into the pools of light, there was a murmur that grew into cheers and applause, not wild, but almost restrained, informed with recognition and respect, that which is accorded a legend. Moses was nearing the end of his long, remarkable string of victories in the 400-meter hurdles. In the course of his walk, which was stately, he kicked high, then he pumped his knees, and broke into a jog. But these seemed all one motion, the definition of a stride, a natural procession of parts that were precisely equal to the sum, indeed which *were* the sum. And I could not tell where in the sequence the walk became a sprint. The race itself was not anticlimactic by any means; but it simply was a movement in the symphony, a sustained and integrated stanza, not more exceptional than the walk-on or the victory lap.

Another moment that I can recall at will: I was an undergraduate at the University of New Mexico. Our team was called the Lobos, and our colors were cherry and silver. Was it a homecoming game? I don't remember. I don't remember the opposing team. What I remember is that at one point in the course of the game there was a decisive moment. We had Don Perkins in the backfield. His jersey, number 43, later was retired, and he went on to a distinguished career with the Dallas Cowboys.

The play I remember began when Perkins broke wide and streaked down the sideline as the quarterback simultaneously glided deep in the pocket. The quarterback's protection was momentary, and he waited as long as he could to release the ball. I think it might have been the longest pass I ever saw thrown in a college game. I thought with a sinking heart that it was overthrown.

But there was something in the look of the receiver, Perkins, streaking just below me, that placed all of probability in suspension. When Perkins drew even with my seat on the 40-yard line, the ball appeared to be at its zenith, and directly over him. I was in the silence that precedes frenzy.

Perkins ran by me, the frozen strain of purpose on his face, like a mask of trance, his eyes nearly closed. I could hear his footsteps; the stutter bore no real relation to his speed. I could hear his breathing, labored exhalations only, like the echo of his cleats on the grass. He blurred, and then I watched his back hurtling towards the goal line. Literally in the nick of time, he turned his head and shoulders slightly, extended his body, reached, and took the ball on his fingertips. And somewhere in this series of extremes he crossed the goal line and the edge of time. Or so it seemed to me; he stood alone, exultant in the

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SUPER XXX BOWL

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general disbelief, in a dimension of timelessness.

These moments have existed in the Super Bowl, too, more than one sometimes in the same game. Super Bowl X was one of these, and it stands out in my mind. It was the Orange Bowl; it was the bicentennial year (1976); and it was a classic matchup. The Dallas Cowboys were the first wild-card team to reach the Super Bowl. They had gone 10-4 in the regular season, finishing a game behind St. Louis in the NFC East. They upset Minnesota 17-14 in the NFC divisional playoffs on a last-minute pass (the fabled "Hail Mary") from quarterback Roger Staubach to Drew Pearson. Then, in the NFC Championship Game, they trounced the Los Angeles Rams 37-7. The Cowboys were a team of speed and finesse; they did not beat up their opponents; rather they deceived and bedazzled them. Their Flex defense lined up a yard off the ball. They ran the Shotgun, and they seemed always in motion. The Pittsburgh Steelers, on the other hand, played old-fashioned, bruising football. They referred to the Cowboys, scoffing, as a "gadget" team. The Steelers had gone 12-2 in the regular season, and they had dispatched Baltimore and Oakland in the playoffs. With Franco Harris running the ball and Joe Greene anchoring the defense, Pittsburgh had put together 11 consecutive victories before losing its final regular-season game on the way to Miami. The crisp air of that January afternoon bore a scent of bitter rivalry. The two teams had come to do battle; there was no love lost between them.

The Cowboys struck first. From the Steelers' 29, following the recovery of a bobbled punt snap, Staubach lofted the ball to Pearson. Pearson took the ball in stride and raced into the end zone. But it did not seem a race. It seemed a long moment in which all speed and exertion were concentrated and smoothed out in slow motion. There seemed no hurry, no waste, nothing extraneous to the perfect errand of crossing the goal line. It was deliberate and inexorable. It was choreography; it was a work of art. It was a performance that justified Super Bowl X.

But the best was still to come. Dallas led 7-0 in the first quarter, 10-7 at halftime, and 10-9 in the fourth quarter. Then the lead changed hands. It was 12-10, then 15-10, Pittsburgh. The momentum swung back and forth, until there were less than 5 minutes left to play.

The Steelers' number 88, an acrobatic young receiver named Lynn Swann, made the decisive play of the game. He ran downfield, abandoned his route, and glided into the deep middle. Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw threw long, and as the ball was in the air, he was hit and knocked unconscious. He did not see Swann's catch, but everyone else did. Swann cradled the ball in his arms at the Cowboys' 5. Cornerback Mark Washington hit him from behind, but Swann barely stumbled, regained his stride, and scored. It was the touchdown that won the game 21-17. The reception was pure choreography, a work of art.

On that afternoon I was privileged to see the finest coordination of mind and muscle, of speed and balance, of power and grace. But what comes back to me in memory more clearly than the first score by the Cowboys, more immediately than the last one by the Steelers, is another incredible catch by Swann. Deep in his territory, Bradshaw faded and threw long. Swann sped along the right sideline. In an instant of pure suspension he leaped for the ball, taking it in his fingers. He seemed in flight, impossibly high above the field. At the same time, Washington also jumped for the ball. The ball deflected off both men's hands and spun upward into the air. Swann came down on his right shoulder, sliding forward on the force of his momentum and at the same time rolling over on his back. The ball plummeted, and he took it easily, gently in his grasp. It was a whole and singular act, its own justification, committed in a state of grace.

It may be that today, here on this field, a man in the balance of strength and swiftness, an athlete in a state of grace, will perform such feats as these.

Let us hope so.

Let us expect it.

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TO ARIZONA IN 1996

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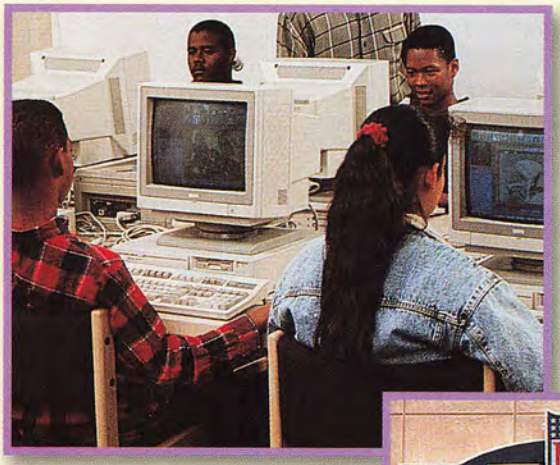

NFL Photos

NFL Photos

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Each year, the NFL leaves a lasting legacy in the Super Bowl host city. From funds generated by Super Bowl events and donations by civic-minded groups comes a very special recreational and educational complex: NFL Youth Education Town.

Each NFL YET center is a high-tech combination of brains and brawn designed to appeal to at-risk youths, featuring libraries, computer rooms, athletic facilities, and organized sports in an inviting after-school environment.

The first center was built in the Los Angeles area after Super Bowl XXVII. Since then Youth Education Towns have been created in Atlanta's Summerhill Grant Park neighborhood and in south Florida at Gwen Cherry Park.

In 1996, the south Phoenix area will become the site of the fourth and newest NFL YET center, located in the Espiritu development.

The NFL would like to thank its partners in this endeavor.

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The NFL and

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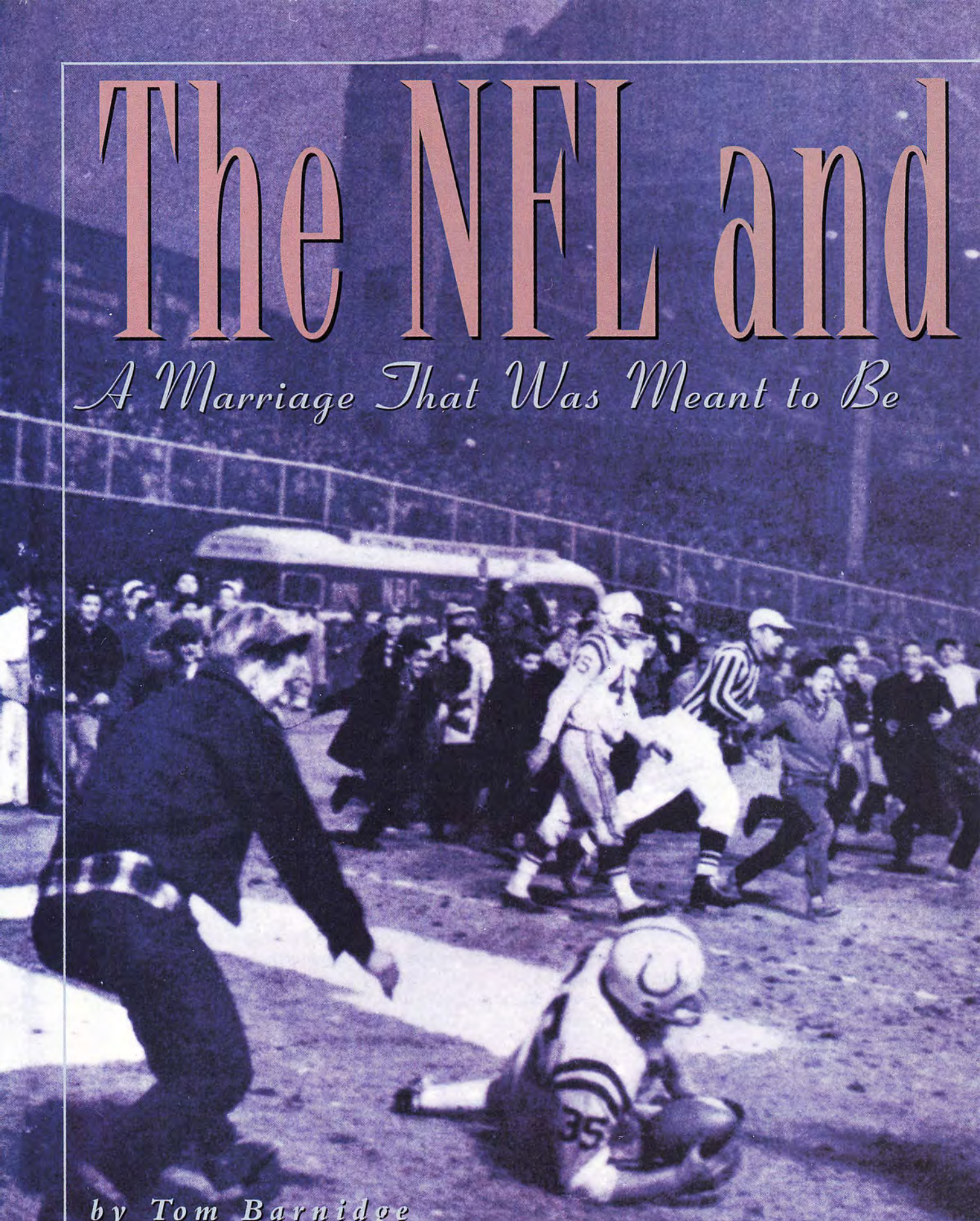


by Tom Barnidge

TV

SUPERSTOCK

It's unlikely that any of those in attendance at Ebbets Field realized they were witnessing an historic event on October 22, 1939, when the Brooklyn Dodgers, en route to a 4-6-1 season, defeated the Philadelphia Eagles, bound for 1-9-1. The matchup of nontitle contenders had lured a modest gathering of 13,057, and many of those spectators departed before the last tackle was delivered in the 23-14 verdict.

But make no mistake—the date marked an important milestone. It's not that history was made on the field. It was made in a tiny broadcast booth above the 50-yard line, miles away at NBC studios, and in living rooms within range of local broadcast signals. Viewers in the estimated 1,000 New York homes that were equipped with new-fangled television sets were able to tune in blurred black-and-white images of NFL players darting across seven-inch screens.

The NFL was on TV.

In the history of arranged marriages, few have enjoyed greater bliss: The ultimate visual-communications device had been introduced to the ultimate spectator sport. Even if both parties were in their infancy, at least the seeds of a romance had been sown. All that remained, as with any love affair, was for the relationship to bloom.

That is the perspective 56 seasons later, thanks to the considerable advantage of hindsight and some eye-popping facts and figures. Consider:

- In each of the last five years, the Super Bowl has been watched within the United States by an *average* of 125 million TV viewers.
- Of all the broadcasts aired since the first rabbit-eared antenna was raised, the Super Bowl holds positions one, two, and three in single-program viewership.
- Super Bowls account for 14 of the 15 highest-rated sports events in television history.
- In the Nielsen rating period from September 1994 to September 1995, each of the top 10 sports programs was an NFL presentation.
- *Monday Night Football*, the fifth highest-rated prime-time show last season, is the second-longest running TV program in the nation. Only *60 Minutes* has been on longer.
- The NFL is the only sports league ever to command simultaneous national contracts with five different networks—ABC, ESPN, FOX, NBC, and TNT.

Among TV programming experts, there is no disputing what the NFL has become. But there is more than a little fascination with how and why the game has enjoyed such success in the medium.

"I've often discussed this with the people I work with," says FOX announcer Pat Summerall, who has been in NFL broadcast booths for 33 seasons. "It's almost as if when the game was invented, it was invented for television.

"You've got four quarters and obvious time outs [for commercial breaks]. The field is like a stage on which you can see all of the twenty-two actors, plus the supporting cast on the sidelines. Then, the action comes to a stop, and the team goes back into the huddle, which gives you a chance to talk with your buddy and think about what might happen

High drama: *The Colts' 23-17, sudden-death victory over the Giants in the 1958 NFL Championship Game captivated a national television audience.*

HY PESKIN/SI/NFL PHOTOS

next. And that's after every play.

"The game showcases its stars maybe as well as any sport does. It's almost as if the entire production was scripted for television."

Of course, a lot of passes fell incomplete from the time of the NFL's TV debut until the era in which network executives began arm wrestling over broadcast rights.

Some NFL graybeards still can recall a time in 1947 when club owner George Halas gladly signed his name to a contract that was worth the grand sum of $900 for each Bears game aired by Chicago station WBKB. Even in 1956, nearly a decade later, the Green Bay Packers were able to attract only $35,000 for broadcast rights for the entire season. Television's affection for pro football didn't begin as a fiery passion.

Flash forward to the television package currently in place—worth about $39 million per team per year—and an unavoidable question leaps to mind: How did this happen?

"There are a lot of reasons for it," says Dennis Lewin, senior vice president for ABC Sports, "but I think the NFL as a national entity first came alive on television with the Giants-Colts championship game in 1958. That exposure on a national level, with one of the greatest games ever played, launched pro football into the American consciousness."

The NFL couldn't have arranged a better showcase for its product. That game, beamed coast to coast on NBC, pitted Johnny Unitas against Charlie Conerly. It featured Frank Gifford, Sam Huff, Raymond Berry, Gino Marchetti, Art Donovan, and Lenny Moore. All told, 15 future Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinees were involved as coaches or players.

The showdown at historic Yankee Stadium unfolded in late-afternoon shadows and built to a crescendo as night fell on New York. First, the Giants had the lead, then the Colts, and then the Giants, before a 17-17 tie at the end of regulation set the stage for pro football's first sudden-death overtime game.

For viewers, the suspense was enhanced further when a technical problem interrupted the broadcast, and TV screens across the nation suddenly went blank. At the urging of a network representative, who was pleading for time to correct the problem, field judge Chuck Sweeney allowed a time out to run beyond its normal duration. He sensed the magnitude of the moment.

"I knew the whole country was watching," he explained later. "I knew pro football was growing up right in front of everyone, thanks to TV. I gave the [NBC] guy another minute beyond the usual ninety seconds for a commercial time out. Finally I told him that was it. But he already was smiling, and I knew we were back on."

After 8 minutes 15 seconds of overtime, at the end of a heart-pounding, 80-yard drive, the Colts' Alan Ameche bulled into the end zone for a 23-17 victory.

The NFL had arrived as a television spectacle.

"I was lucky enough to be a participant in that game," says Summerall, then a defensive end and kicker for the Giants. "The magnitude of what that game did to bring football to the attention of the country never has diminished."

But gaining attention was one thing. Arranging a far-sighted television game plan was another. As late as 1961, each NFL club went it alone when it came to broadcast rights. High-profile teams in large cities naturally attracted more interest than clubs located in remote locations across the country.

It was then, according to Browns owner Art Modell, chairman of the NFL's Broadcast Committee for 31 years, that the league arrived at the "single most important event in NFL history." The 14 teams, at Commissioner Pete Rozelle's urging, decided to band together to negotiate a single-network national television package in which all NFL games would be televised and all teams would share revenues equally.

"For a lot of Republicans voting in that league, we acted pretty socialistically," Modell says. "I have to give high marks to Pete Rozelle. He was ahead of his time. He was a thinker. He was a visionary. That decision was a key ingredient in making this league as great as it is today."

To CBS, which signed the first contract, the logic was undeniable: The NFL as a whole was greater than the sum of its parts.

One immediate benefit for clubs was an overall increase in rights fees—each club received nearly $400,000—but, more importantly, as Rozelle seemed to understand, league-wide television exposure helped promote interest in every team.

"The popularity of the NFL is largely based on television," says Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, current chairman of the NFL's Broadcast Committee. "A lot of people attend games, but more watch them on television. From that standpoint alone, TV is important."

It didn't take television executives long to recognize the marketability of the NFL. The games were played on Sunday afternoons when competitive programming was weak. There were traditional rivalries, talented athletes, and dramatic confrontations. But maybe as important as any other consideration, the action in each game could be compressed nicely within the confines of a TV screen.

"The sport itself," says ABC's Lewin, "is played on a rectangular field that is approximately the same

DAN RUBIN

Low-tech TV: *The earliest network broadcasts may have left something to be desired, but the league benefited immeasurably from the national exposure.*

Tele-visionary: *Commissioner Pete Rozelle (center) foresaw television's far-ranging impact, but he might not have guessed the heights to which announcer Pat Summerall (right) would rise.*

shape as your television screen. You start from something that fundamental. The plays lay out as you watch a game, from left to right or right to left across your screen. That makes it in some ways easier to cover than baseball, where the ball goes off at funny angles and there are different players on different parts of the field doing different things.

"You have a sustained burst of action and then a sustained period when the teams huddle up or come off the field, which allows you time to personalize the players. It's a sport that just works very well on television."

Television executives also came to realize what football fans had known for years. Because of the limited number of games on the schedule, each one took on extra importance. Seven days of anticipation between kickoffs only added to the drama.

"We play games once a week, and, therefore, each one is an event," Modell says. "That's the distinction between the NFL and other pro sports. The infrequency of play makes each Sunday something special, whether you're in front of your TV set or at the stadium."

And there was something else about football that network executives soon recognized: The game was ideally suited to take advantage of technological innovations. If four cameras provided good coverage of the 100-yard field, six cameras were even better. If a broken-field run was thrilling once, it was thrilling again in replay. A running back's cutback was too quick to appreciate? Show it in slow motion. An open receiver was overlooked by the passer? Use a split screen to show both players.

Horizons were broadened by the possibilities. Executives started brainstorming for innovations. As each technique was developed, a new use for it was found at NFL games.

Lewin, a part of the ABC production team since *Monday Night Football* first aired, says one of his network's earliest innovations was to change the location of the cameras.

"The basic way television covered the NFL in 1970 was to lump all the cameras on the fifty-yard line," he says. "The theory was that the fifty was the best seat in the house. We thought the best seat was as close to the line of scrimmage as you could get.

"When we went to put in our stationary cameras, we put two at the twenty-five and two on the fifty, so as the ball moved up and down the field, we could use the camera closest to the line of scrimmage. That was pretty radical for the time."

It also was ABC's idea, Lewin says, to position cameras on golf carts on the sidelines, which permitted them flexibility to roam up and down the length of the field. But such inventiveness was not always well received.

"I had to make three trips to Minnesota to meet with [Vikings general manager] Jim Finks just to get the right to use a sideline cart for our first game there," Lewin says. "The seats in the front row at old Metropolitan Stadium were quite low, and he didn't want our cameraman to block the fans' view.

"We worked out a compromise in which the Vikings allowed us to put a cart on the sideline with a camera mounted on top, but the cameraman could not stand on the cart. He had to walk alongside it."

If the 1970 arrival of *Monday Night Football*, a bold adventure in prime-time programming, signaled the NFL's coronation as the king of televised sports, it did not arrive without some reservations. Both CBS and NBC, the NFL's regular broadcast partners then, had rejected Rozelle's overture when he suggested the notion.

"There was a reluctance on the part of television executives to preempt regular programming," says Val Pinchbeck, the NFL's senior vice president of broadcasting and network television. "CBS had the *Doris Day Show* in a certain time slot, and it would not alter that. NBC had the *Monday Night Movies*."

ABC, with the weakest Nielsen ratings, was a logical alternative. But even ABC expressed some doubts about the appeal of prime-time football until Rozelle explained his alternative plan: If no network was interested in televising a Monday night game, the Commissioner said, the NFL would syndicate the programming.

A light went on at ABC, and brows began to furrow: Would affiliate stations across the country, weighted down with low-rated ABC programs, drop the network feed in order to air the NFL game? That's when the NFL and ABC became television partners.

"I don't think anybody dreamed what it would become," Lewin says. "I don't think there was any way to anticipate it. The other networks passed, so there obviously was some skepticism."

There was some concern about Monday night football even among NFL owners, although it was concern of a different sort. They wondered how attendance would be affected by a 9 P.M. (Eastern time) kickoff on a weekday work night. The answer was delivered in unmistakable fashion in Cleveland on September 21, 1970, when the Browns defeated the New York Jets 31-21 in the first Monday-night game—before a crowd of 85,703.

continued on page 222

ABC-TV

And Now . . . a Word From Our Sponsors

There were 125 million reasons why corporations decided to spend an average of $1 million for a 30-second television commercial during Super Bowl XXIX.

"Corporations advertise in the Super Bowl because it's the biggest audience you can reach at a single time in the world," says Pat Fallon, partner and founder of Fallon McElligott ad agency, which created two highly acclaimed commercials for Lee Jeans in Super Bowl XXVII. "The Super Bowl produces a bigger-than-life environment. Showing your product during the game says that your company has leadership in the marketplace, stability, and stature."

Super Bowl XXIX was watched by an estimated 125 million people in the United States and millions more worldwide. The game was televised in more than 150 countries.

Including pregame and postgame shows, ABC sold a record $75 million in advertising for San Francisco's 49-26 victory over San Diego last year. The $1 million fee for a 30-second spot was the most in television history. By comparison, the fee for a 30-second spot on the 1995 Academy Awards was $600,000. CBS charged that much during Super Bowl XXI.

Anheuser-Busch, which geared a Super Bowl campaign around the fictitious "Bud Bowl," paid $8 million to be the only beer advertiser during Super Bowl XXIX. In 1985, Ford paid $2.5 million to be the exclusive domestic auto advertiser in Super Bowl XIX.

The breakthrough in Super Bowl advertising was a 60-second commercial from Chiat/Day, Los Angeles (now TBWA Chiat/Day), which introduced Apple's Macintosh computer. The commercial borrowed from George Orwell's *1984* with a thinly veiled comparison of IBM to Big Brother.

> **'Getting to put a commercial on the Super Bowl signifies you've made it to the big leagues.'**
>
> *-- Lee Clow, TBWA Chiat/Day*

The commercial depicted a bleak futuristic world devoid of color, save for the Apple logo, which was located strategically on the clothes of a woman. She was shown running down an aisle amidst seated people who stared blankly at a large screen upon which the image of Big Brother was projected. The woman threw a hammer that blew up at the screen while a voice intoned: "On January twenty-fourth, Apple Computer will introduce Macintosh. And you'll see why 1984 won't be like *1984*."

"That ad we did was one of those strange moments in time when everything just seemed to fall into place," says Lee Clow, chairman and chief creative officer of TBWA Chiat/Day, who served as the creative director for the Apple campaign in 1984. "Steven Jobs, the head of Apple, was a young, aggressive entrepreneur who wanted to tell the world that he had created something special.

"We wanted to start our campaign on January first, with the college bowl games, but the computers weren't going to be ready until just after the Super Bowl, so we changed our focus.

"Our intention was to make the world pay attention. Initially, we had purchased two sixty-second spots in the Super Bowl, and we were going to run the ad twice. But the board of directors at Apple became nervous about spending so much money on an advertisement that didn't even show their product. We knew the ad would be remembered because of the Super Bowl's tremendous viewership, but we got an extra bonus when the game turned out to be rather uneventful [the Raiders defeated the Redskins 38-9 in Super Bowl XVIII]. People spent more time talking about our ad. The day after the game, the media were asking everyone if they had seen our commercial.

"Companies started perceiving the Super Bowl to be a tremendous advertising vehicle. Since that day, the hype has grown exponentially. Now the media are polling the best and worst ads of the Super Bowl. It has become a contest to gain the most recognition. Our ad ended up being worth a whole lot more than Apple spent."

The cost for producing these epic advertisements is mind-boggling. For Super Bowl XXVIII in 1994, McDonald's spent $2.5 million to produce a 60-second spot featuring basketball stars Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, and Charles Barkley. The commercial required four days of filming, 75 hours of special-effects work, 140 hours of editing, 10 hours of sound mixing, and a staff of 80 people.

For Super Bowl XXIX, Frito-Lay created a Rold Gold pretzels ad that showed Jason Alexander (George from NBC's *Seinfeld*) and Sparky (Eddie, the dog on NBC's *Frasier*) parachuting into Joe Robbie Stadium. The commercial was a $1.5 million "bargain." Other prominent figures who have appeared in recent commercials include former Vice President Dan Quayle and former governors Mario Cuomo (New York) and Ann Richards (Texas).

McDonald's has advertised in 28 of the 29 Super Bowls, and Masterlock, which has bought commercial time in 19 of the past 20, spends most of its advertising budget for a year in a 30-second spot.

In 1989, *USA Today* began rating Super Bowl commercials. The newspaper assigned Roman numerals to each ranking.

American Express, which chronicled the bumbling antics of comedians Dana Carvey and Jon Lovitz on a fictitious trip to the Super Bowl, was crowned the first champion in Ad Meter I. Nike took the top prize the next year (famous sports announcers called a fictitious game) and again two years later (Bugs Bunny played basketball with Michael Jordan).

Diet Pepsi scored a victory in 1991 with Ray Charles's jingle, "You Got the Right One, Baby. Uh-huh." McDonald's used a wild basketball game of horse between Jordan and Larry Bird to win in 1993. Pepsi scored victories the last two years with a chimp who broke free from a laboratory after drinking the soft drink and a youngster who sucked a straw so vigorously that he wound up inside a Pepsi bottle.

"When we did the 1984 ad for Apple, there wasn't a lot of pressure to put on a spectacular show for the Super Bowl," Clow says. "The pressure we had came from trying to please our client. That isn't the case anymore. Now getting to put a commercial on the Super Bowl signifies you've made it to the big leagues. There is a good deal of pressure to do something great and amazing."

—Brian Peterson

We've Had the Most Colorful Career in Football.

First World Championship Game AFL vs NFL
Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL II
Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL III
N.Y. Jets 16, Baltimore 7
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL IV
Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL V
Baltimore 16. Dallas 13
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL VI
Dallas 24, Miami 3
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL VII
Miami 14, Washington 7
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL VIII
Miami 24, Minnesota 7
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL IX
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL X
Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XI
Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XII
Dallas 27, Denver 10
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XIII
Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
Official Ball: Wilson

Super Bowl XIV
Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles 19
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XV
Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XVI
San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XVII
Washington 27, Miami 17
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XVIII
L.A. Raiders 38, Washington 9
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER XIX BOWL
San Francisco 38, Miami 16
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER XX BOWL
Chicago 46, New England 10
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XXI
N.Y. Giants 39, Denver 20
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER XXII BOWL
Washington 42, Denver 10
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XXIII
San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER XXIV BOWL
San Francisco 55, Denver 10
Official Ball: Wilson

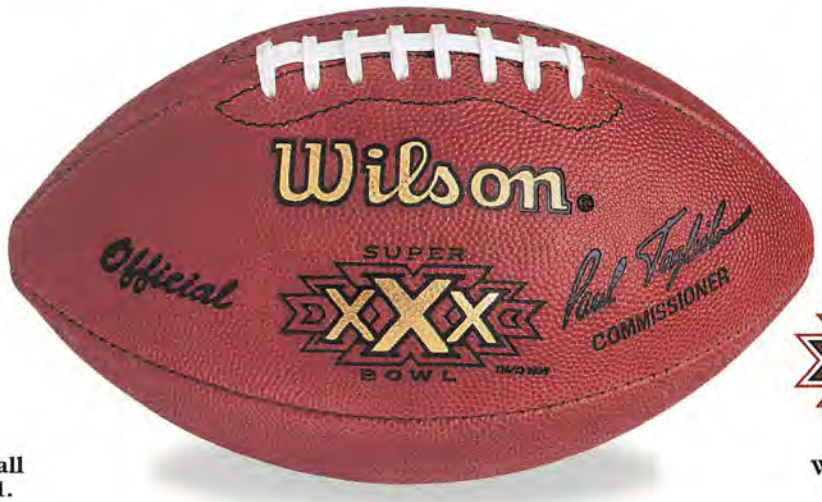
SUPER BOWL XXV
N.Y. Giants 20, Buffalo 19
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER XXVI BOWL
Washington 37, Buffalo 24
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XXVII
Dallas 52, Buffalo 17
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER XXVIII BOWL
Dallas 30, Buffalo 13
Official Ball: Wilson

SUPER BOWL XXIX
San Francisco 49, San Diego 26
Official Ball: Wilson



NFL

Wilson. The Official Ball of the NFL® Since 1941.

SUPER XXX BOWL

Wilson. The Official Ball of Super Bowl XXX

Wilson
The Right Equipment Makes The Difference™

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Keith Jackson, who handled play-by-play that night, would be replaced by Frank Gifford in 1971. But the voices that made *Monday Night Football* distinctive belonged to his partners in the broadcast booth—Howard Cosell and Don Meredith.

Opinionated and outspoken, Cosell viewed his role as critic and journalist with unmistakable seriousness. His unequivocal pronouncements during a game could delight or aggravate. Meredith, unassuming and blessed with homespun wit, was a former player who refused to take the game too seriously.

A typical exchange came during a 1971 game between the Giants and the Cowboys—Gifford's and Meredith's former teams.

Cosell intoned harshly, "Gentlemen, neither of your respective teams is showing me very much this evening." To which Meredith replied, "Well, Howard, at least we have respective teams."

"That combination of announcers helped broaden the fan base," Lewin says, "because they dealt with the game in more than X's-and-O's fashion."

Rozelle had anticipated the impact that the new programming would have, as he explained at the time: "There are more TV sets in use on Monday night than on Sunday afternoon. We're undoubtedly getting a lot of new fans."

A poignant reflection of the game's impact was reported in the November 2, 1970, edition of *Sports Illustrated*: "Dick Benson, a grade-school teacher in Milwaukee did not believe the Nielsen rating that gave the Monday night game one-third of the total TV audience. The morning after the Lions-Bears Monday evening game [October 5, 1970], he polled his class and discovered that sets had been turned on to the game in 29 of 31 homes."

The games were special even from a technical standpoint, with 8 to 10 cameras capturing every play. A normal Sunday game on NBC or CBS used half that many. Twenty-five years later, the cameras at a Monday night game number from 12 to 14.

"When you look at a telecast now, it obviously is very different from what was being done in the early seventies," Lewin says, "but the way we present it now is every bit as right for this time as the other one was right for its. People are looking for different things—more analysis, more information. It's a different game."

From Summerall's standpoint, the game and its viewers have propelled each other. As the quality of each telecast has improved, the viewer has become more sophisticated. And as the viewer has become more sophisticated, expectations for each telecast have increased.

"When I first started broadcasting, we didn't have instant replay," Summerall says. "The picture that viewers saw was all they saw. You couldn't play it back or look at questionable calls. You didn't see another angle from the opposite field, and the telestrator wasn't available. There were no overhead shots, no mobile cams, no crossbar cameras.

"The big change other than equipment is that we are far, far more thoroughly prepared now than we ever were before. In the early years, my instructions were as simple as this: 'You're an ex-player, you played the game, now go talk about it.'"

Today's broadcast crews go through complete pregame briefings with competing coaching staffs. Announcers and analysts visit with players and ask questions about game plans. In addition, many of the commentators on television are former coaches such as Mike Ditka, Joe Gibbs, and John Madden, and their scope of knowledge has made for remarkably informed fans. Summerall marvels at how intense fans have become.

"I can't walk anywhere that people don't want to talk about football," he says. "I go through an airport and that's all anybody wants to talk about. People treat me like I'm part of the family. It's amazing how many people say they grew up listening to me."

So just how important has television been for the NFL?

"I think it's integral to its success," Pinchbeck says. "In a given week, you could have close to a million people watching games from the stands—and seventy or eighty million watching on TV."

"All of our teams are on TV in the regular season, and people across the country can get to know each team, which is why a kid in Long Island can grow up rooting for Terry Bradshaw or a youngster in Philadelphia can be a fan of Dan Marino. Television is the engine that drives the train."

On no day is that fact more powerfully evidenced each year than on Super Bowl Sunday, when more than 150 countries around the world tune in to the biggest one-day sports event on the calendar and more than 125 million Americans gather around their TV sets at home.

"There's nothing quite like doing a Super Bowl," ABC's Lewin says. "You know it's going to be the most-watched show of the year in all of network television. You know that everyone in the country, basically, is going to be watching the game. As a one-day event, there's nothing that even comes close."

Fifty-six years after the NFL and TV first were introduced, all their friends say the same thing: They were made for each other.

Super Bowl TV Audience

RATINGS AND U.S. TELEVISION AUDIENCE FOR THE FIRST 29 SUPER BOWLS:

Super Bowl	Date	Network	Rating**	U.S. Viewers***
I*	1/15/67	CBS	23.0	50 million
I*	1/15/67	NBC	17.8	35 million
II	1/14/68	CBS	36.8	51 million
III	1/12/69	NBC	36.0	55 million
IV	1/11/70	CBS	39.4	59 million
V	1/17/71	NBC	39.9	59 million
VI	1/16/72	CBS	44.2	67 million
VII	1/14/73	NBC	42.7	68 million
VIII	1/13/74	CBS	41.6	63 million
IX	1/12/75	NBC	42.4	71 million
X	1/18/76	CBS	42.3	73 million
XI	1/9/77	NBC	44.4	82 million
XII	1/15/78	CBS	47.2	102 million
XIII	1/21/79	NBC	47.1	97 million
XIV	1/20/80	CBS	46.3	98 million
XV	1/25/81	NBC	44.4	94 million
XVI	1/24/82	CBS	49.1	110 million
XVII	1/30/83	NBC	48.6	109 million
XVIII	1/22/84	CBS	46.4	105 million
XIX	1/20/85	ABC	46.4	116 million
XX	1/26/86	NBC	48.3	127 million
XXI	1/25/87	CBS	45.8	120 million
XXII	1/31/88	ABC	41.9	115 million
XXIII	1/22/89	NBC	43.5	111 million
XXIV	1/28/90	CBS	39.0	109 million
XXV	1/27/91	ABC	41.9	112 million
XXVI	1/26/92	CBS	40.3	120 million
XXVII	1/31/93	NBC	45.1	133 million
XXVIII	1/30/94	NBC	45.5	135 million
XXIX	1/29/95	ABC	41.3	125 million

* Game was telecast by both CBS and NBC.
** Source: A.C. Nielsen
*** Ratings based on number of households with televisions tuned into some or all of the telecast

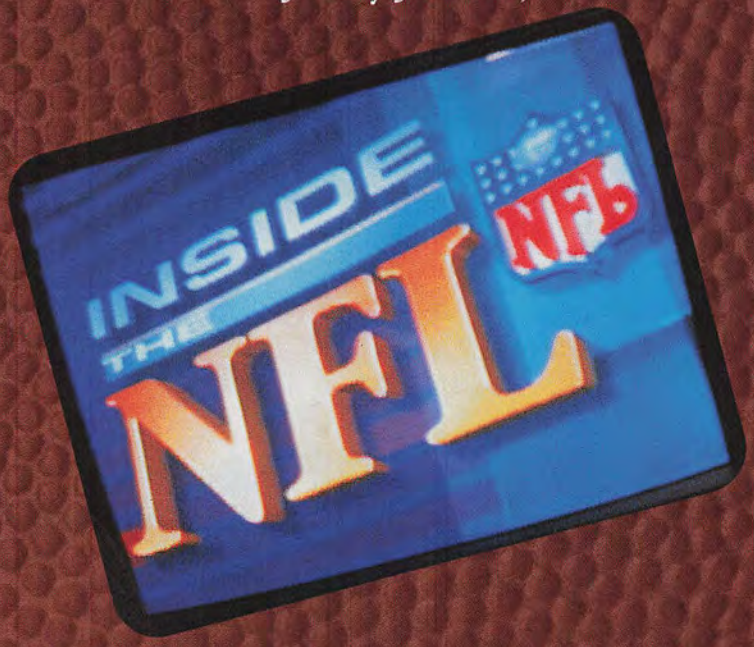
JAMES FLORES

"...The best of the bunch..."
(Houston Chronicle)

"...Outstanding..."
(Kansas City Star)

"...One of the most polished pregame shows..."
(Philadelphia Inquirer)

"...Terrific. Jimmy Johnson is outstanding..."
(Jimmy Johnson)



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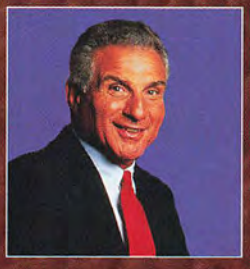

NETWORK OF CHAMPIONS

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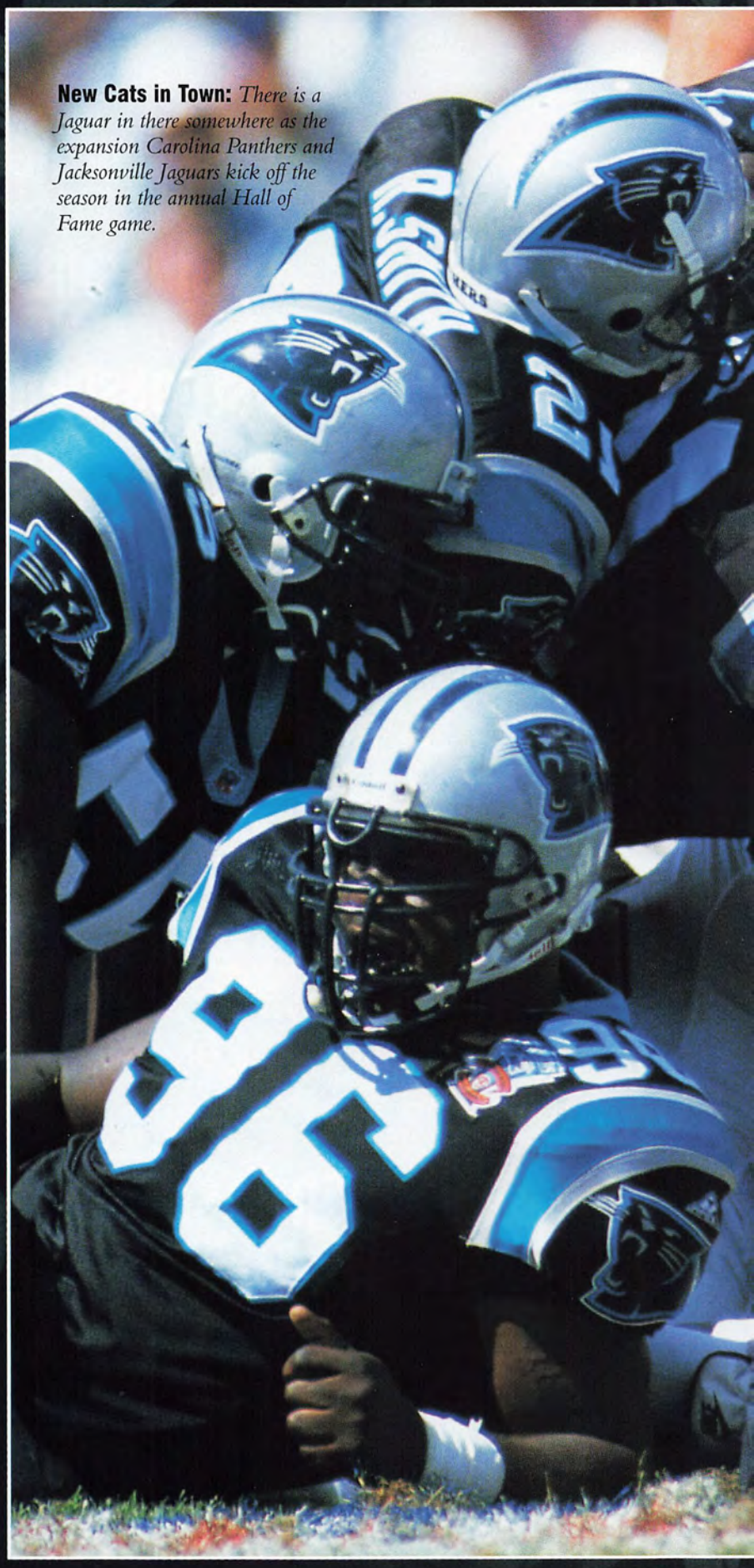
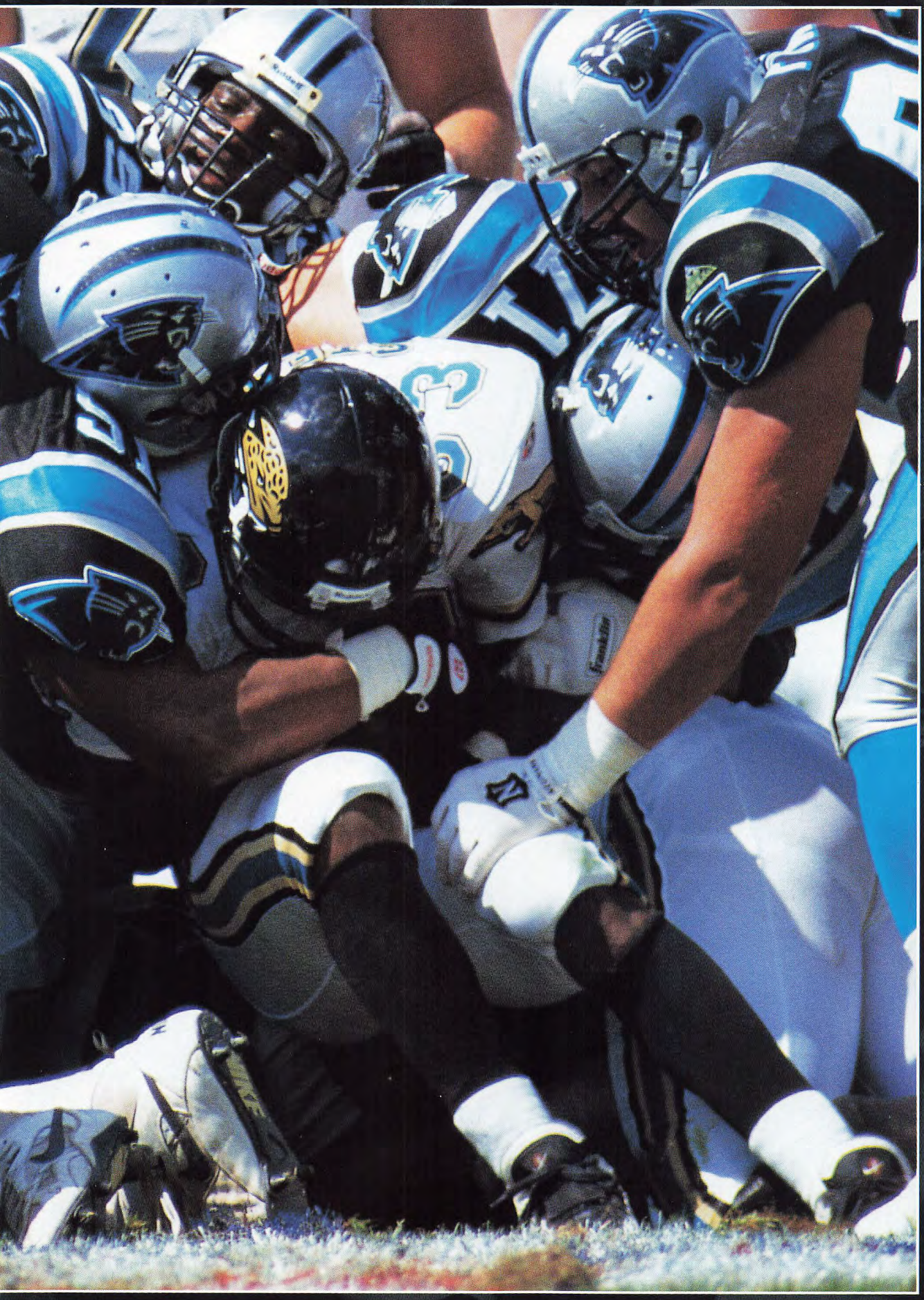
Best Shots '95



New Cats in Town: *There is a Jaguar in there somewhere as the expansion Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars kick off the season in the annual Hall of Fame game.*

DAVID DRAPKIN

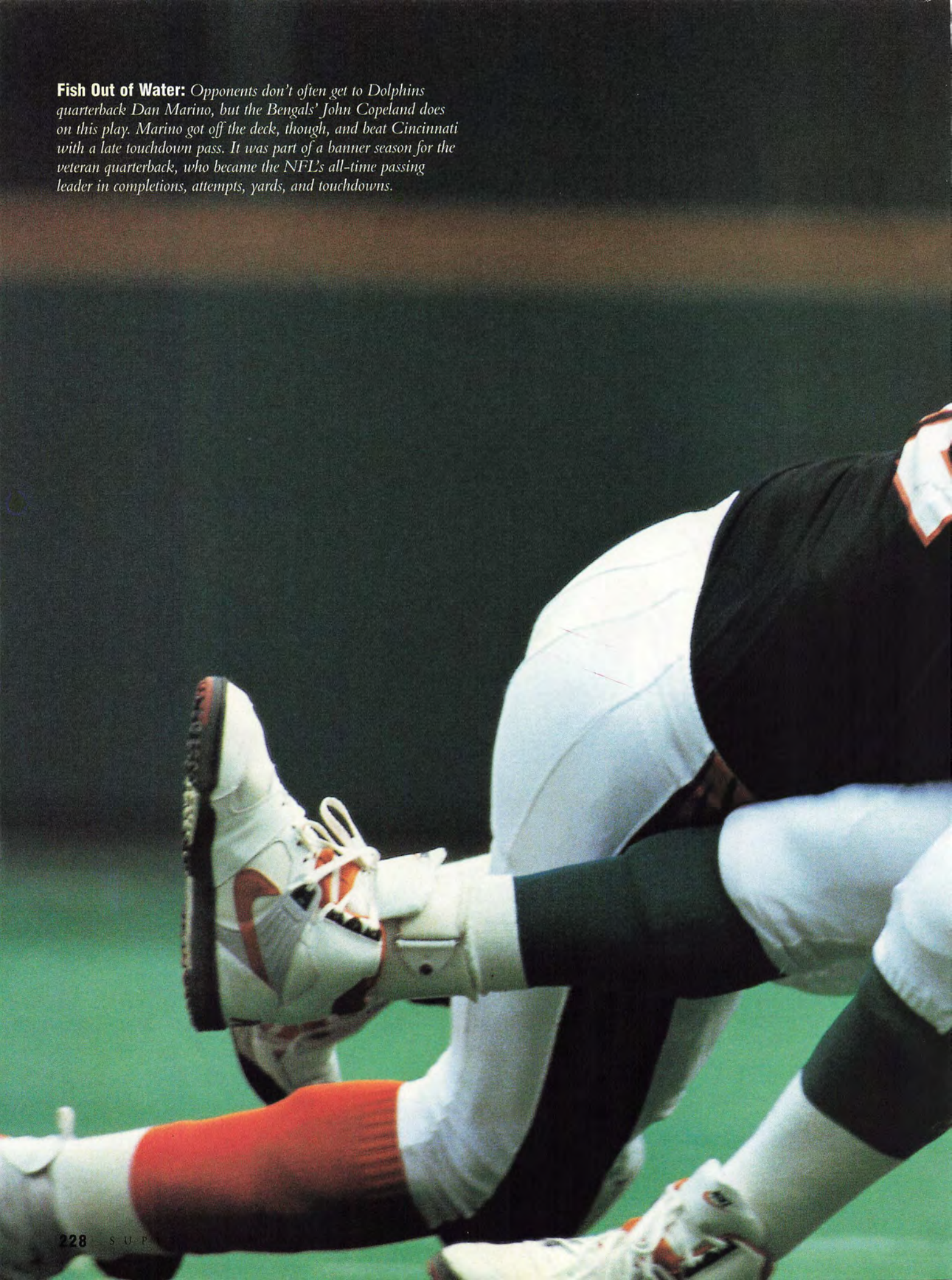


IMAGES OF THE NFL SEASON

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

All Hands on Deck: *49ers receiver Jerry Rice battles Saints cornerback Jimmy Spencer for this pass. Rice became the NFL's career leader in receiving yards (15,123) and receptions (942) in 1995.*

Oooomph!: *Broncos quarterback John Elway feels the brunt of the pass rush from San Diego's Shawn Lee.*

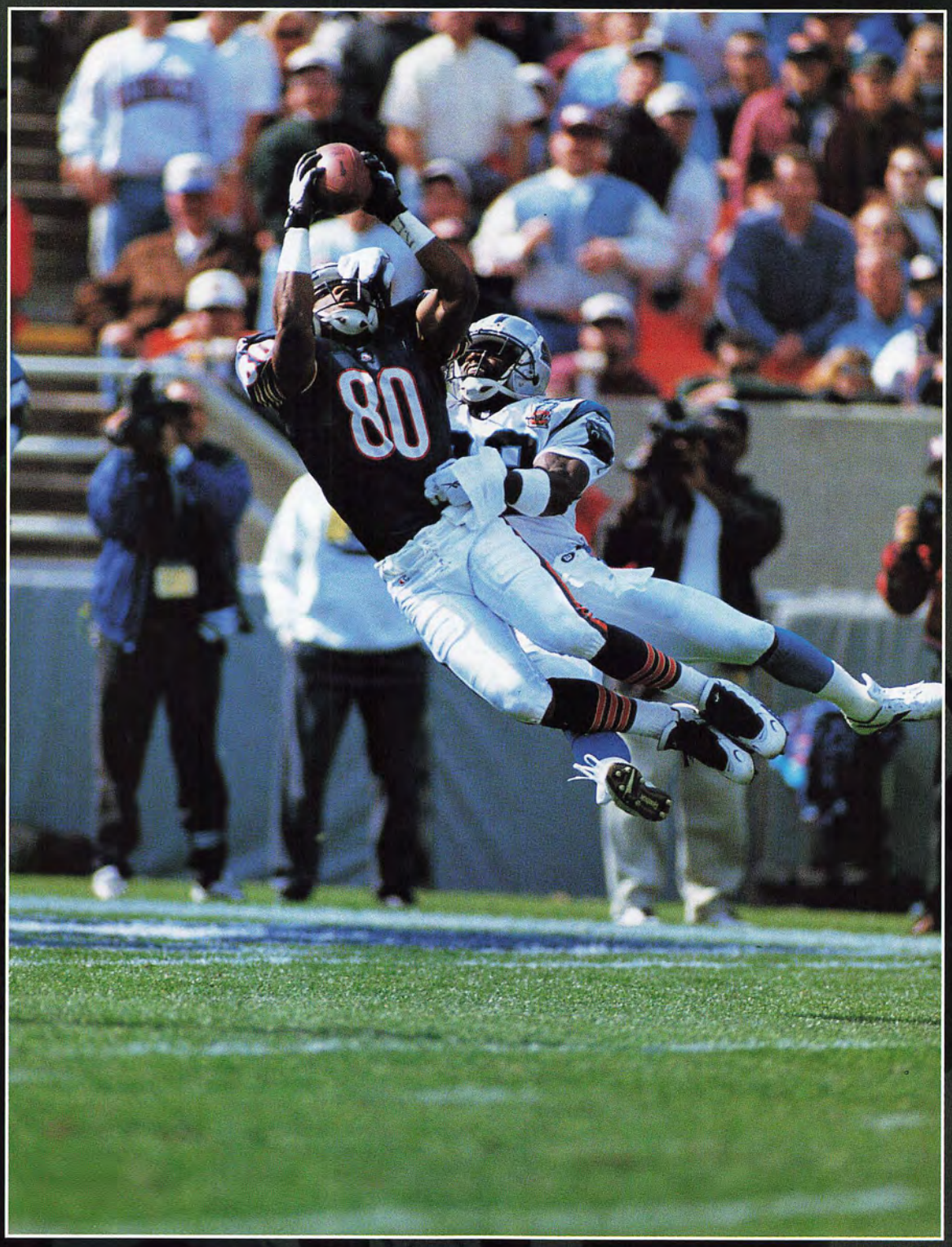


Fish Out of Water: *Opponents don't often get to Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, but the Bengals' John Copeland does on this play. Marino got off the deck, though, and beat Cincinnati with a late touchdown pass. It was part of a banner season for the veteran quarterback, who became the NFL's all-time passing leader in completions, attempts, yards, and touchdowns.*

MICHAEL HEINZ

Balancing Act: *Rams linebacker Roman Phifer knocks Green Bay's Mark Ingram off his feet—but not quite down. The Packers stayed upright most of the season, and won the NFC Central.*

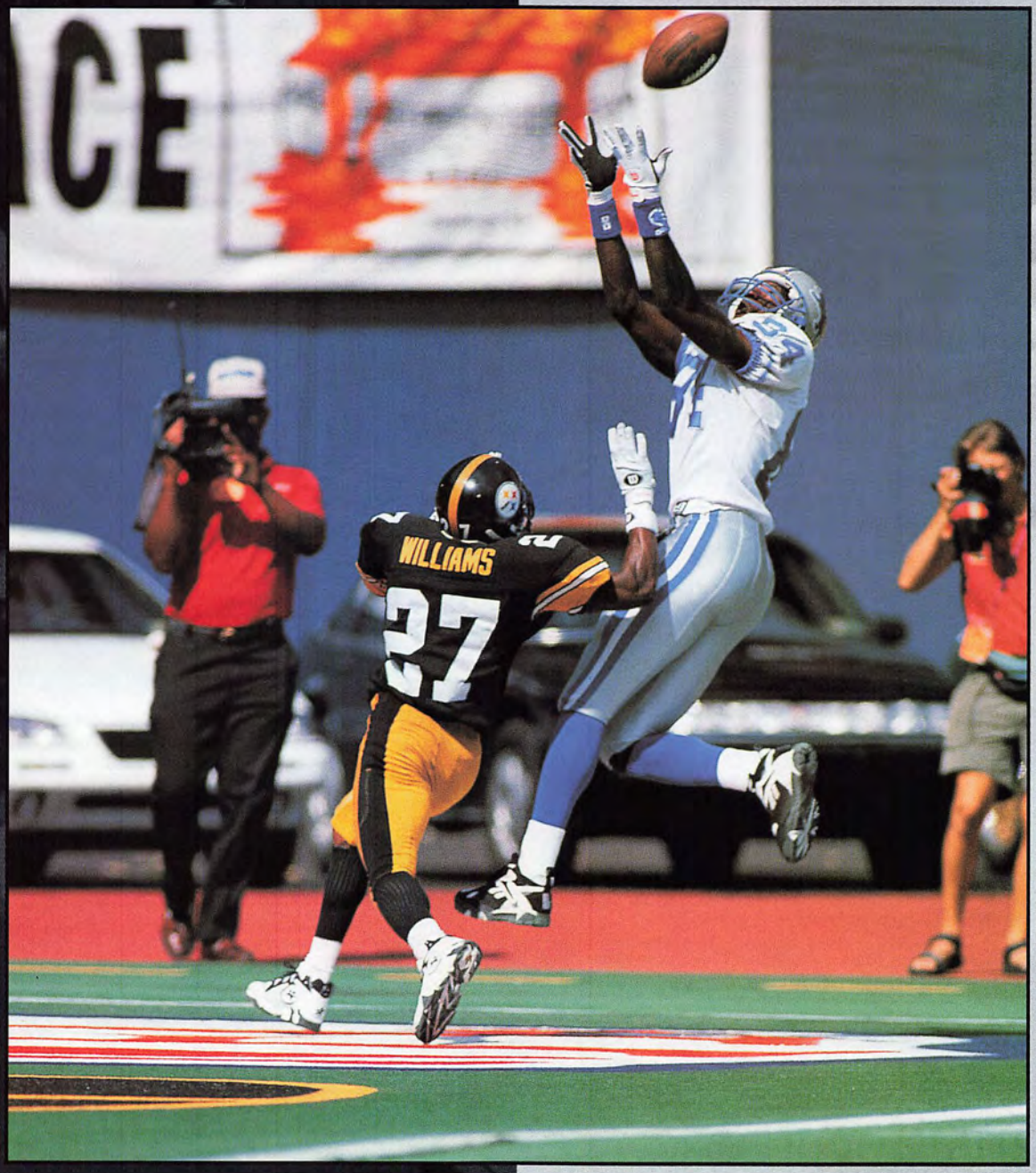
TODD ROSENBURG



RON VESELY

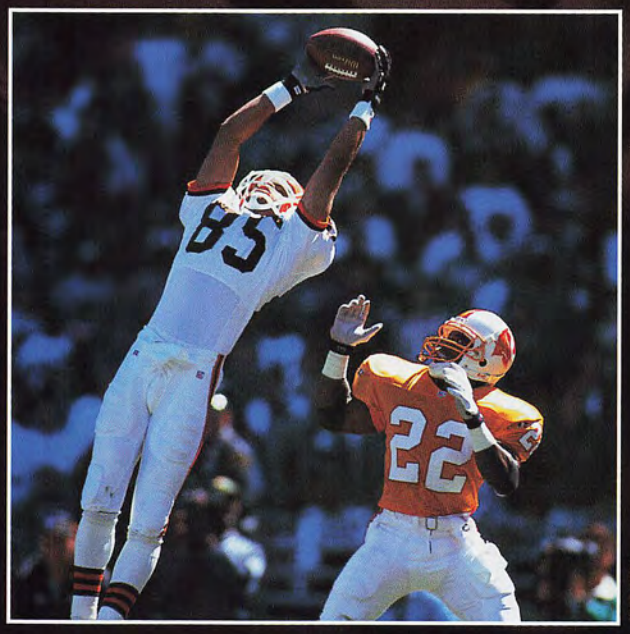
Four Off the Floor: *Bears wide receiver Curtis Conway soars to make this catch despite close coverage from a Panthers' defensive back. Conway scored 12 touchdowns during the regular season and gave Chicago's revitalized offense the big-play threat it sorely needed.*

ALLEN KEE



PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Change of Direction: *In a reversal as eye-popping as one of Barry Sanders's moves (left), the Lions' offense evolved into a pass-happy attack in 1995 that took advantage of acrobatic receivers such as Herman Moore (above). The strategy worked: Sanders still rushed for more than 1,000 yards, Moore led the NFL in receiving, and Detroit overcame an 0-3 start to make the playoffs.*



PETE GROH

Game of Inches: *Cleveland's Derrick Alexander uses all of his 6-foot 2-inch frame—and then some—to snare this pass in front of Tampa Bay's 5-9 Thomas Everett.*

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

Sudden Impact: *The Panthers knocked heads with the 49ers at midseason and served notice that they were no ordinary expansion team when they became the first first-year club to beat a defending NFL champion. After starting the year with five consecutive losses, Carolina finished with an expansion-record seven victories.*

Heels Over Head: *Raiders running back Harvey Williams gets a lift from the Seahawks' Corey Harris. Oakland crash landed with six consecutive losses after starting the season 8-2.*

GREG TROTT

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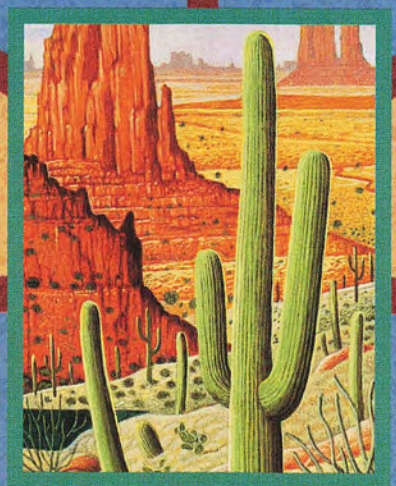

1995 REPLAY

A WEEK-BY-WEEK REVIEW
OF THE 1995 SEASON

By Jim Perry

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As Emmitt Smith Goes...

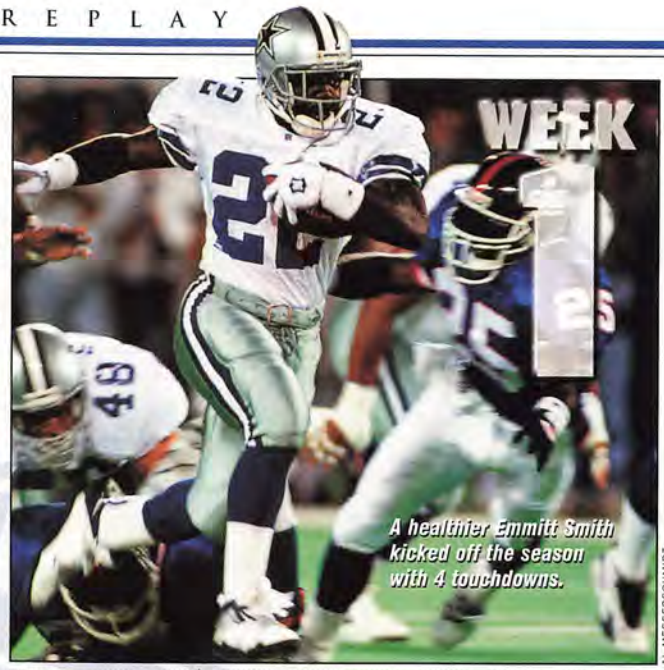
Although he ran for nearly 1,500 yards in 1994, Emmitt Smith was nagged by hamstring pulls in both legs at season's end, particularly during the playoffs.

And so, after leading the NFL in rushing for three consecutive years, the sore-legged Smith finished third, while his Dallas Cowboys failed to make the Super Bowl for the first time in three seasons.

This would not do. In the offseason, Smith worked furiously to strengthen his legs.

The hard work paid off. On opening day, 1995, the 26-year-old running back rushed for 163 yards and a club-record-tying 4 touchdowns (including one from 60 yards) as the Cowboys overwhelmed the Giants 35-0.

Smith's effort pushed his career rushing touchdown total to 75, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Tony Dorsett's Dallas record of 72.



A healthier Emmitt Smith kicked off the season with 4 touchdowns.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 24, **Indianapolis** 21 (OT)
Denver 22, Buffalo 7
Houston 10, **Jacksonville** 3
Kansas City 34, **Seattle** 10
Miami 52, N.Y. Jets 14
New England 17, Cleveland 14
Oakland 17, San Diego 7

NFC
Atlanta 23, Carolina 20 (OT)
Chicago 31, Minnesota 14
Dallas 35, **N.Y. Giants** 0
St. Louis 17, **Green Bay** 14
San Francisco 24, **New Orleans** 22
Tampa Bay 21, **Philadelphia** 6
Washington 27, Arizona 7

INTERCONFERENCE
Pittsburgh 23, Detroit 20
(Home teams in bold)

The Bears, for Openers

After swamping the Vikings 31-14, the Bears had won 11 of their last 12 openers, the best current mark in the NFL. Chicago's 37 victories on opening day are the most in league history. The all-time leaders (by percentage):

Team	W-L-T	Pct.
Dallas	27-8-1	.764
Denver	22-13-1	.625
Chicago	37-25-1	.595
N.Y. Giants	35-24-4	.587

New England, Literally

They were 2-14 in 1992, the year before Bill Parcells took over as coach, but after one week in 1995, the Patriots had the longest regular-season winning streak in the NFL—a club-record eight games.

They kept it going by rallying for a 17-14 victory over the Browns. With 19 seconds left, rookie Curtis Martin dove from the 1-yard line, was hit, lunged again, and finally extended the ball over the goal line for the winning touchdown.

Overtime Pays Off for Bengals

When Cincinnati's Doug Pelfrey beat the Colts 24-21 with a 47-yard field goal in overtime on opening day, it ran the Bengals' record in overtime games since 1992 to 4-0.

In fact, since the NFL made the extra period available for regular-season games in 1974, the Bengals were the league's most successful overtime team. The leaders:

Team	W-L-T	Pct.
Cincinnati	12-5-0	.706
Buffalo	9-4-0	.692
Washington	9-4-0	.692
Pittsburgh	9-4-1	.679

Goodby L.A., Hello Victory

Maybe it was good to get away.

For the first time since the final weekend of the 1993 season, the Rams and Raiders, late of Los Angeles, both won on the same day.

Back in Oakland after 13 years in Los Angeles, the Raiders, under new coach Mike White, turned back defending AFC champion San Diego 17-7 before a sell-out crowd.

Playing for St. Louis after 49 years in Los Angeles (although they opened on the road), the Rams, under new coach Rich Brooks, surprised the Packers 17-14.

STEVEN MURPHY

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Dan Marino

Miami's **Dan Marino** began the season needing 15 touchdown passes to break **Fran Tarkenton's** NFL record of 342. He threw 3 of them as the Dolphins routed the Jets 52-14...**Steve Bono** replaced the retired **Joe Montana** as quarterback of the Chiefs and also fired 3 touchdown passes (including 60- and 40-yard bombs to **Willie Davis**) in his team's 34-10 thrashing of Seattle ...The Steelers edged Detroit 23-20 on **Norm Johnson's** final-play, 31-yard field goal, but lost six-time Pro Bowl cornerback **Rod Woodson** (torn knee ligament) for the year, and quarterback **Neil O'Donnell** (broken little finger on his passing hand) for at least three weeks.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	1	0	0	Cincinnati	1	0	0	Denver	1	0	0	Dallas	1	0	0	Chicago	1	0	0	Atlanta	1	0	0
New England	1	0	0	Houston	1	0	0	Kansas City	1	0	0	Washington	1	0	0	Tampa Bay	1	0	0	St. Louis	1	0	0
Buffalo	0	1	0	Pittsburgh	1	0	0	Oakland	1	0	0	Arizona	0	1	0	Detroit	0	1	0	San Francisco	1	0	0
Indianapolis	0	1	0	Cleveland	0	1	0	San Diego	0	1	0	N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	Green Bay	0	1	0	Carolina	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	Jacksonville	0	1	0	Seattle	0	1	0	Philadelphia	0	1	0	Minnesota	0	1	0	New Orleans	0	1	0

Steve Bono rallied the Chiefs to an overtime victory over the Giants.

DARRELL SANDLER

Dolphins Turn Into Sea Monsters

After two weeks, the Miami Dolphins were 2-0, and everyone was talking about their *defense.*

The team that had lived and died on Dan Marino's arm for most of the previous decade held Drew Bledsoe and the Patriots to a field goal and won 20-3. The Patriots moved inside the Miami 25 five other times, but they were shut out each time.

"For the first time since I've been here, our defense has better talent than our offense," Miami linebacker Bryan Cox said.

Cox had a big game—13 tackles, including 1 sack, and 1 forced fumble, plus an interception. Safety Michael Stewart had 11 tackles, intercepted a pass, broke up another pass, and helped hold Pro Bowl tight end Ben Coates to 1 catch for 3 yards until New England's last offensive series.

RON VESELY

Start Spreading the (Bad) News...

New Yorkers were wearing black armbands. Both the Giants and Jets blew big leads and lost in overtime. Both also were winless in two games.

The Giants led the Chiefs 17-3 in the fourth quarter, but Kansas City's Steve Bono completed 17 of 21 passes on a pair of long touchdown drives and forged a 17-17 tie. The Chiefs won in overtime on Lin Elliott's 23-yard field goal.

Meanwhile, the Jets led the Colts 24-3 in the third quarter and 24-10 in the fourth. But Jim Harbaugh came off the Colts' bench for the second week in a row and threw 2 fourth-quarter touchdown passes for a 24-24 tie.

Harbaugh then led an overtime drive to Mike Cofer's 52-yard field goal for a 27-24 victory.

Hitting Their Marks

One NFL record fell and two were tied in week 2.

Fuad Reveiz kicked 32- and 27-yard field goals to run his streak of consecutive three-pointers to 30 (breaking John Carney's mark of 29) as the Vikings beat the Lions 20-10.

Jerry Rice caught 11 passes for 167 yards—including 2 for touchdowns from Steve Young—as the 49ers ran past Atlanta 41-10. The 100-yard game was Rice's fiftieth, matching the record of Hall of Fame wide receiver Don Maynard.

Robert Brooks

And Green Bay's Brett Favre and Robert Brooks teamed up on a record-tying 99-yard touchdown pass in the Packers' 27-24 victory over the Bears.

Oakland's 'Saints' Try a New Image

In 1994, the Raiders were penalized an NFL-record 156 times. It may have fit their image as an aggressive, brawling team, but all that gift yardage helped keep them out of the playoffs.

After two games in 1995, the sinners were acting like saints. After being cited six times for only 45 yards in their opener, they were penalized just twice for 14 yards in a 20-8 victory over Washington. Oh, they also had a 2-0 record.

High Sign in Dallas

It had been a distracting week in Dallas as the club pursued free-agent cornerback Deion Sanders, a four-time Pro Bowl selection. On Saturday, the Cowboys signed the ex-49ers cornerback, making him the NFL's highest-paid defensive player.

On Sunday, the rest of the team went out and dismantled Denver 31-21. Troy Aikman passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for 1, and Emmitt Smith rushed for 114 yards and another score.

"This team did a great job of putting the Deion talk aside and getting down to business," Smith said.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 24, Jacksonville 17
Indianapolis 27, **N.Y. Jets** 24 (OT)
Miami 20, **New England** 3
Pittsburgh 34, **Houston** 17
San Diego 14, Seattle 10
NFC
Green Bay 27, **Chicago** 24
Minnesota 20, Detroit 10
Philadelphia 31, **Arizona** 19
St. Louis 17, New Orleans 13
San Francisco 41, Atlanta 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 31, Carolina 9
Cleveland 22, Tampa Bay 6
Dallas 31, Denver 21
Kansas City 20, N.Y. Giants 17 (OT)
Oakland 20, **Washington** 8
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	2	0	0	Cincinnati	2	0	0	Kansas City	2	0	0	Dallas	2	0	0	Chicago	1	1	0	St. Louis	2	0	0
Buffalo	1	1	0	Pittsburgh	2	0	0	Oakland	2	0	0	Philadelphia	1	1	0	Green Bay	1	1	0	San Francisco	2	0	0
Indianapolis	1	1	0	Cleveland	1	1	0	Denver	1	1	0	Washington	1	1	0	Minnesota	1	1	0	Atlanta	1	1	0
New England	1	1	0	Houston	1	1	0	San Diego	1	1	0	Arizona	0	2	0	Tampa Bay	1	1	0	Carolina	0	2	0
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	Jacksonville	0	2	0	Seattle	0	2	0	N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	Detroit	0	2	0	New Orleans	0	2	0

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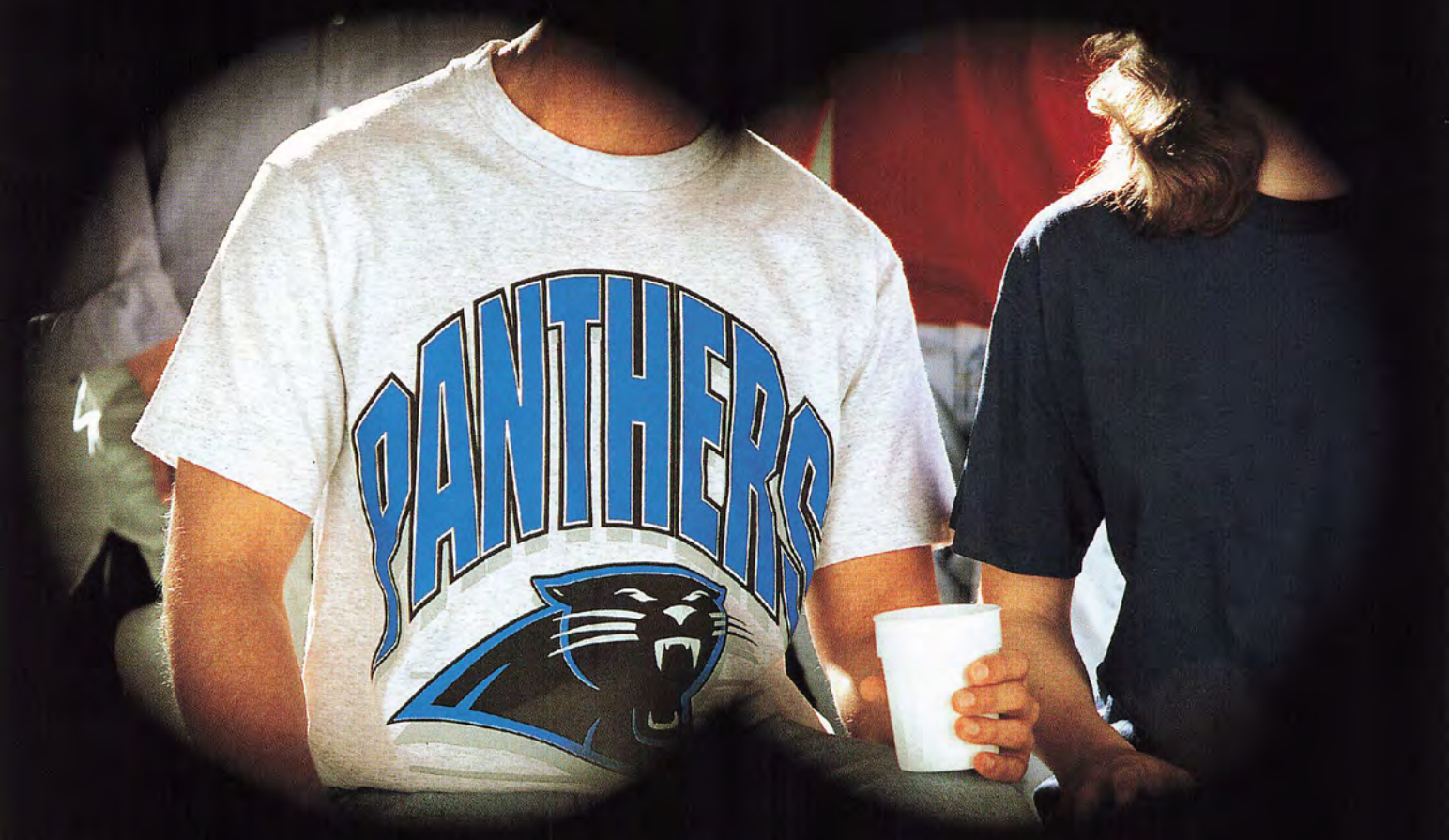

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Ramarkable!

Three weeks into the season, only five NFL teams remained unbeaten. One of them was a dinosaur-sized surprise.

"I knew our team could be successful," Rams cornerback Todd Lyght said. "But 3-0?"

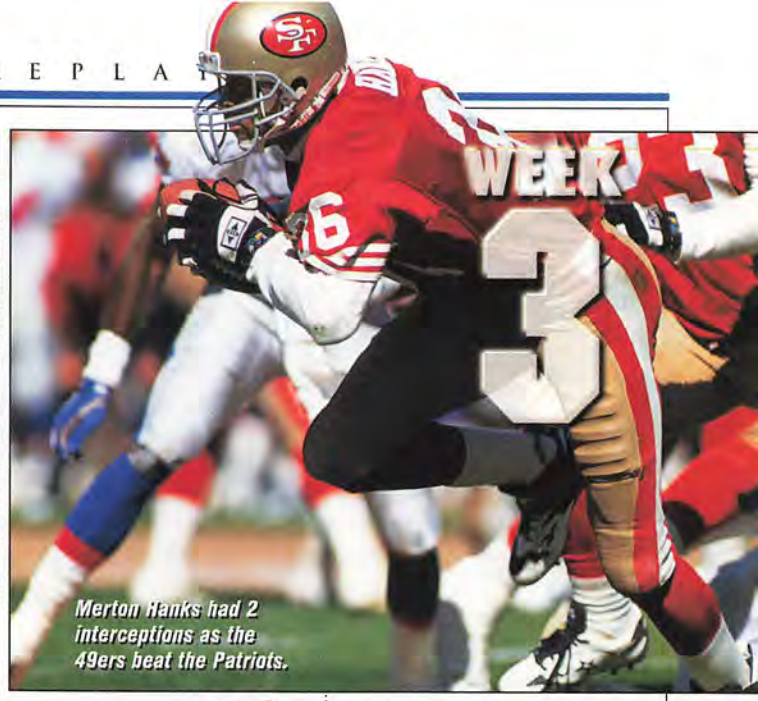
Everyone else in the NFL was just as astonished with the Rams, who had won only 23 of 80 games in five previous seasons in Los Angeles.

In a 31-10 victory over Carolina in week 3, the Rams forced 7 turnovers, including cornerback Anthony Parker's 28-yard fumble return and cornerback Torin Dorn's 24-yard interception return for touchdowns.

In three games under new coach Rich Brooks, the club had forced 12 turnovers and committed an NFL-leading none.

Brian Mitchell

AGGIE SKIRBALL



Merton Hanks had 2 interceptions as the 49ers beat the Patriots.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Washington's loss to Denver on the game's last play didn't diminish the exploits of Brian Mitchell, who accounted for 290 total yards for the Redskins. Mitchell returned 5 kickoffs for 188 yards, 1 punt for 52, caught 1 pass for 14, and scored on a 36-yard run. He set up 10 other points...The Jets' 27-10 victory over the Jaguars snapped New York's seven-game losing streak, dating back to November, 1994...In the Vikings' loss to Dallas, Fuad Reveiz extended his NFL-record field-goal streak to 31 with a 42-yard kick, then missed from 48 yards...The 49ers routed New England 28-3, but the primary victim was Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who was sacked 4 times, intercepted 3 times (twice by safety Merton Hanks), lost a fumble, and suffered a separated left shoulder.

John Elway, Meet Rod Smith

It was a case of the old and the new.

Denver quarterback John Elway had thrown 202 touchdown passes in his 13-year NFL career. First-year wide receiver Rod Smith had never caught an NFL pass.

So, of course, they teamed up on the game's last play as Elway drilled a 43-yard touchdown pass to Smith to break a 31-31 tie and beat Washington 38-31. The leaping Smith beat five-time Pro Bowl cornerback Darrell Green for the ball.

The Buck Drops Here

Barry Sanders's good-hands streak was over—and it had a costly conclusion.

The Lions' running back had handled the ball on 803 successive plays without a turnover, but he fumbled the ball away twice late in the fourth quarter—the first set up Arizona's winning touchdown, the second killed Detroit's last chance—in the Lions' 20-17 loss to the Cardinals. Sanders also rushed for 147 yards.

Ex-Lion Dave Krieg's 24-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Anthony Edwards on fourth down with 2:31 left provided the winning points.

Victories... in the Long Run

The Chiefs and the Cowboys stayed unbeaten on sudden touchdowns in overtime. The Chiefs were only the second team in NFL history to win overtime games in successive weeks.

In Kansas City, the home team defeated the Raiders 23-17 when cornerback James Hasty intercepted a pass by Jeff Hostetler and raced 64 yards to score. Hasty's 20-yard fumble return in the first quarter set up another touchdown.

In a Sunday night game in Minneapolis, Emmitt Smith got big blocks from fullback Daryl Johnston, tackle Mark Tuinei, and tight end Jay Novacek, and ran 31 yards for the winning touchdown as Dallas beat the Vikings 23-17. Smith rushed for 150 yards, his third consecutive 100-yard game.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 20, Indianapolis 14
Cleveland 14, **Houston** 7
Kansas City 23, Oakland 17 (OT)
Miami 23, Pittsburgh 10
N.Y. Jets 27, Jacksonville 10
Seattle 24, Cincinnati 21
NFC
Arizona 20, **Detroit** 17
Atlanta 27, **New Orleans** 24 (OT)
Chicago 25, **Tampa Bay** 6
Dallas 23, **Minnesota** 17 (OT)
Green Bay 14, N.Y. Giants 6
St. Louis 31, **Carolina** 10
INTERCONFERENCE
Denver 38, Washington 31
San Diego 27, **Philadelphia** 21
San Francisco 28, New England 3
(Home teams in bold)

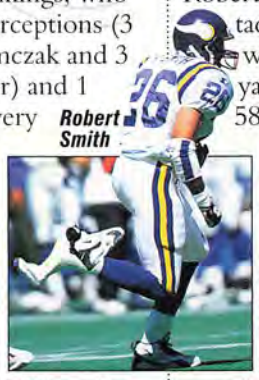
AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	3	0	0	Cincinnati	2	1	0	Kansas City	3	0	0	Dallas	3	0	0	Chicago	2	1	0	St. Louis	3	0	0
Buffalo	2	1	0	Cleveland	2	1	0	Denver	2	1	0	Arizona	1	2	0	Green Bay	2	1	0	San Francisco	3	0	0
Indianapolis	1	2	0	Pittsburgh	2	1	0	Oakland	2	1	0	Philadelphia	1	2	0	Minnesota	1	2	0	Atlanta	2	1	0
New England	1	2	0	Houston	1	2	0	San Diego	2	1	0	Washington	1	2	0	Tampa Bay	1	2	0	Carolina	0	3	0
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	Jacksonville	0	3	0	Seattle	1	2	0	N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	Detroit	0	3	0	New Orleans	0	3	0

GREG TROTT

Steelers' Stock Dropping Fast

On their way to the AFC Championship Game in 1994, the Steelers had the fewest turnovers in the NFL—17. In 1995, they had 17 in the first four weeks.

Seven of them came in their momentous collapse against the Vikings, who turned 6 interceptions (3 off Mike Tomczak and 3 off Jim Miller) and 1 fumble recovery into a stunning 44-24 victory. The 7 turnovers led to 27 of Minnesota's points.



Robert Smith

DAVID DRAPKIN

On one interception, Vikings linebacker Jack Del Rio carried the ball 15 yards before lateraling to safety Orlando Thomas, who ran 45 more for a touchdown. Thomas also intercepted 2 other passes—in his first NFL start.

Vikings running back Robert Smith was spectacular, too. Smith, who rushed for 115 yards, scored on a 58-yard run, covering the last 30 yards without his right shoe.

"I've lost my shoe three times this season," Smith said. "Maybe I'll get a sock contract."

Role Reversal

Before Monday night, the 49ers had won 16 of their last 17 regular-season and playoff games, including a 3-0 start this season.

But the winless Detroit Lions, getting 291 passing yards from Scott Mitchell and 4 field goals from Jason Hanson (including the 32-yard game-winner with 1:12 left), surprised San Francisco 27-24.

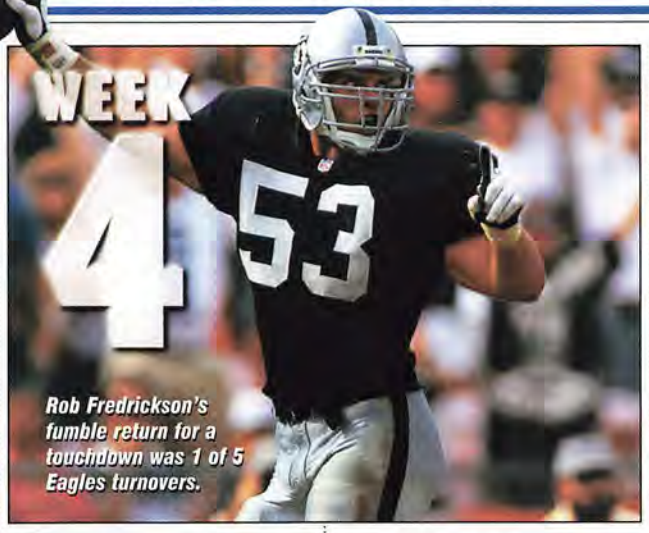
Steve Young marched the 49ers 58 yards in the final minute to set up Doug Brien for a potential game-tying field goal. But Brien's 40-yard attempt hit the right upright on the last play.

Quick Start in Houston

For most of his career, Chris Chandler had been a backup quarterback—but Houston let him show what he could do as a starter.

Against Cincinnati, Chandler completed 23 of 26 passes for 352 yards and 4 touchdowns (including 58- and 46-yard collaborations with rookie wide receiver Chris Sanders) as the Oilers outscored the Bengals 38-28.

One of his incompletions was a second-quarter spike to stop the clock, or he would have broken Vinny Testaverde's NFL record for completion percentage (91.3 percent on 21 of 23 attempts). The other misses were accurate throws that were broken up by Bengals cornerback Roger Jones.



Rob Fredrickson's fumble return for a touchdown was 1 of 5 Eagles turnovers.

GREG TROTT

Nothing or All

At the end of the first quarter, the Eagles led the Raiders 17-0, and the game looked like a rout.

It was. Oakland won 48-17.

Oakland's defense ignited the explosion, sacking Randall Cunningham and Rodney Peete 7 times and forcing 5 turnovers, which led to 28 points. Tackle Austin Robbins and linebacker Rob Fredrickson returned fumbles for touchdowns. End Pat Swilling had 3 sacks.

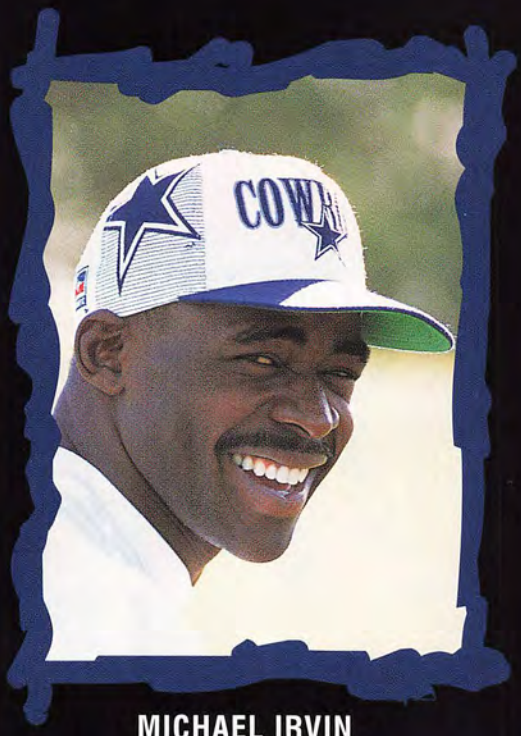
FOR THE RECORDS

Green Bay's Brett Favre tied an NFL record (shared by Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith, and Dan Marino) when he threw 2 touchdown passes in a 24-14 victory over Jacksonville. It gave Favre 12 games in a row with at least 2 touchdown passes...In Minnesota's victory, Warren Moon became the first pro football player to pass for 60,000 yards as he boosted his career total to 60,055, including 21,228 in the Canadian Football League...Jerry Rice caught 11 passes for 181 yards in the 49ers' loss to Detroit, giving him 51 career 100-yard games and breaking Don Maynard's NFL record of 50...At 4-0, the Rams (34-28 winners over Chicago) still had not committed a turnover, tying the NFL record for most consecutive games without one.

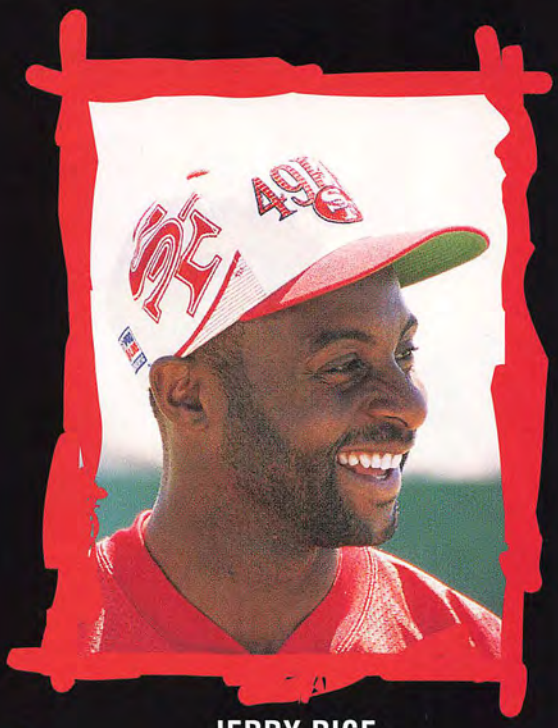
SCORES

AFC
Cleveland 35, Kansas City 17
Houston 38, **Cincinnati** 28
San Diego 17, Denver 6
NFC
Dallas 34, Arizona 20
Detroit 27, San Francisco 24
N.Y. Giants 45, New Orleans 29
St. Louis 34, Chicago 28
Tampa Bay 14, Washington 6
INTERCONFERENCE
Atlanta 13, N.Y. Jets 3
Green Bay 24, **Jacksonville** 14
Minnesota 44, **Pittsburgh** 24
Oakland 48, Philadelphia 17
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Miami	3	0	0	Cleveland	3	1	0	Kansas City	3	1	0	Dallas	4	0	0	Green Bay	3	1	0	St. Louis	4	0	0
Buffalo	2	1	0	Cincinnati	2	2	0	Oakland	3	1	0	Arizona	1	3	0	Chicago	2	2	0	Atlanta	3	1	0
Indianapolis	1	2	0	Pittsburgh	2	2	0	San Diego	3	1	0	N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	Minnesota	2	2	0	San Francisco	3	1	0
New England	1	2	0	Houston	2	2	0	Denver	2	2	0	Philadelphia	1	3	0	Tampa Bay	2	2	0	Carolina	0	3	0
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	Jacksonville	0	4	0	Seattle	1	2	0	Washington	1	3	0	Detroit	1	3	0	New Orleans	0	4	0



MICHAEL IRVIN



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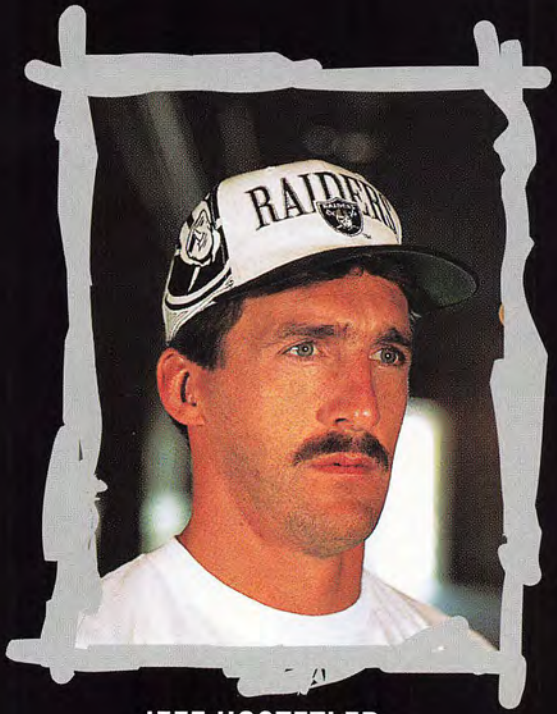
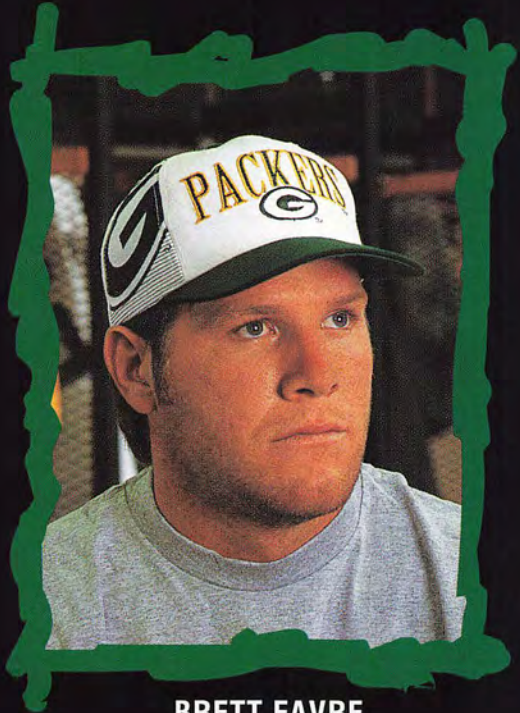


JEFF HOSTETLER



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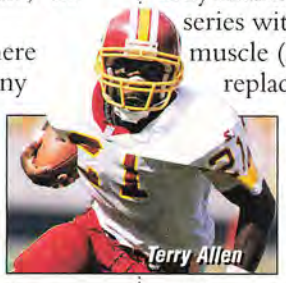
Victory Deja Vu

Cornerback Darrell Green, who played for Washington in the team's glory days, was smiling.

"This was our biggest win in three years," he said.

Of course, there hadn't been many wins in three years. The Redskins had lost 28 of their last 36 games.


Terry Allen

JAMES D. SMITH

But on the fifth Sunday of the season, Washington got 121 rushing yards and a touchdown from Terry Allen and 2 touchdown passes from Gus Frerotte (1 to Allen) to surprise previously unbeaten Dallas 27-23.

Dallas lost quarterback Troy Aikman on the first series with a pulled calf muscle (he was replaced by Wade Wilson), but coach Barry Switzer wouldn't use that as an excuse.

"I'm not sure we could have beaten them with Troy in the game," he said. "Troy doesn't play defense."

Don defeated Dave on O.J. McDuffie's touchdown with 1:03 remaining.

GREG CRISP

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Rookie wide receiver **Joey Galloway** touched the ball just 7 times, but gained 143 yards in Seattle's 27-10 victory over Denver. Galloway caught 4 passes for 89 yards and ran 3 reverses for 54 more...**Jeff Hostetler** threw 4 touchdown passes to lead the Raiders' 47-10 rout of the host Jets. Frustrated Jets fans chanted "Let's Go, Raiders" in the second half...Cincinnati's **Carl Pickens**, who caught 3 touchdown passes from **Jeff Blake** against Miami, had a streak of 10 games with at least 1 touchdown catch, 3 short of the NFL record.

Joey Galloway

Midnight for St. Louis

Cinderella ran into Marshall Faulk.

The Rams, the NFL's most surprising team after a 4-0 start, lost to Indianapolis 21-18 as Faulk rushed for 177 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The Colts' second-year back scored on runs of 32, 33, and 1 yard. He also caught 5 passes for 45 yards, an offensive total of 222 yards.

After not committing a turnover in their first four games, the Rams had 3 in their fifth. Two miscues set up Colts touchdowns.

Run, Steve, Run!

On the first play of the second quarter, the Chiefs and Cardinals were scoreless when Kansas City's Steve Bono handed the ball to Marcus Allen on third-and-1. Or did he?

Arizona's defense was convinced. Everyone charged after Allen, who had carried the ball on first and second downs and who shot into the line as if he had it again. But Bono hid the ball on his right hip, circled around right end, and slowly made his way 76 yards down the sideline for a touchdown—the longest scoring run by a quarterback in NFL history.

Bono also threw 2 touchdown passes, and Kansas City won 24-3.

Revenge Factor

In the 1994 playoffs, the Chargers surprised the Steelers in the AFC title game to advance to Super Bowl XXIX.

Nine months later, Pittsburgh got a small measure of revenge, jumping to a 21-0 first-quarter lead and stopping the Chargers 31-16.

Pittsburgh cornerbacks Willie Williams and Alvoid Mays returned tipped passes 63 and 32 yards for first-quarter touchdowns.

Father Knows Best

In Shula Bowl II—matching Don Shula and Miami against his son Dave and Cincinnati—the unbeaten Dolphins survived 26-23.

The Bengals' Doug Pelfrey missed a tying 45-yard field-goal attempt with two seconds left.

There were six lead changes, but the Dolphins went ahead for good when Dan Marino, who passed for 450 yards, drove Miami 91 yards for a touchdown. O.J. McDuffie caught a 16-yard scoring pass from Marino with 63 seconds left.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 22, **Cleveland** 19
Jacksonville 17, **Houston** 16
Miami 26, **Cincinnati** 23
Oakland 47, **N.Y. Jets** 10
Pittsburgh 31, San Diego 16
Seattle 27, Denver 10

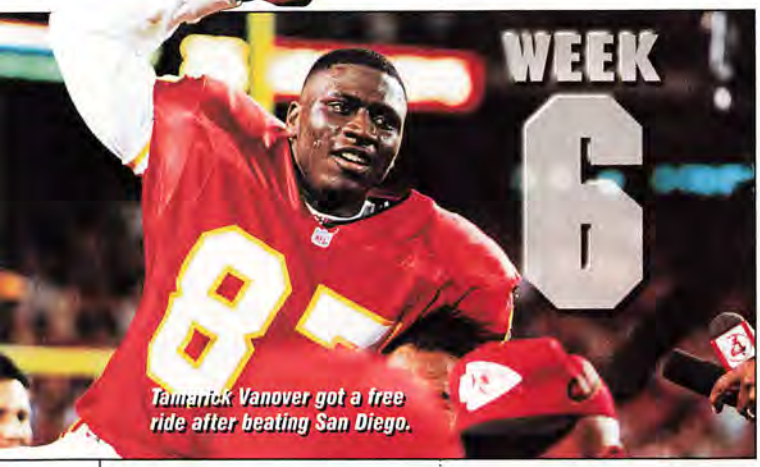
NFC
Philadelphia 15, **New Orleans** 10
San Francisco 20, N.Y. Giants 6
Tampa Bay 20, **Carolina** 13
Washington 27, Dallas 23

INTERCONFERENCE
Atlanta 30, New England 17
Indianapolis 21, St. Louis 18
Kansas City 24, **Arizona** 3
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T
Miami	4	0	0	Cleveland	3	2	0	Kansas City	4	1	0
Buffalo	3	1	0	Pittsburgh	3	2	0	Oakland	4	1	0
Indianapolis	2	2	0	Cincinnati	2	3	0	San Diego	3	2	0
New England	1	3	0	Houston	2	3	0	Seattle	2	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	Jacksonville	1	4	0	Denver	2	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Dallas	4	1	0	Green Bay	3	1	0	Atlanta	4	1	0
Philadelphia	2	3	0	Tampa Bay	3	2	0	St. Louis	4	1	0
Washington	2	3	0	Chicago	2	2	0	San Francisco	4	1	0
Arizona	1	4	0	Minnesota	2	2	0	Carolina	0	4	0
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	Detroit	1	3	0	New Orleans	0	5	0

JOE PATRONITE



Tamarick Vanover got a free ride after beating San Diego.

JOE PATRONITE

Marino Gets a Record, an Injury, a Loss

What began as a great day for Dan Marino went downhill faster than a world-class skier.

In the first half against the Colts, Marino broke Fran Tarkenton's NFL career record for completions (finishing the game with 3,702) and was rewarded with a standing ovation. He also led unbeaten Miami to a 24-3 halftime lead.

However, the Dolphins not only lost the game 27-24, but Marino suffered torn cartilage in his right knee (it was discovered Sunday night) and had arthroscopic surgery on Monday. He also suffered a severely bruised hip and would miss at least one game.

The Colts rallied in the second half behind Jim Harbaugh, who fired 3 touchdown passes—the first 2 to Floyd Turner and then one of 21 yards to Aaron Bailey with 1:09 left to tie the game at 24-24.

In overtime, Harbaugh completed 5 passes in a row to set up Cary Blanchard's 27-yard field goal—and Miami had suffered its first loss.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 29, N.Y. Jets 10
Denver 37, **New England** 3
Indianapolis 27, **Miami** 24 (OT)
Jacksonville 20, Pittsburgh 16
Kansas City 29, San Diego 23 (OT)
Oakland 34, Seattle 14

NFC
Chicago 31, Carolina 27
Dallas 34, Green Bay 24
N.Y. Giants 27, Arizona 21 (OT)
Philadelphia 37, Washington 34 (OT)

INTERCONFERENCE
Detroit 38, Cleveland 20
Minnesota 23, Houston 17 (OT)
Tampa Bay 19, Cincinnati 16
(Home teams in bold)

Fashion for '95: Overtime Is "In"

It was that old baseball philosopher Yogi Berra who once said, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

In 1995, it wasn't over 'til it was in overtime.

There were five overtime games in week six—the most on one weekend in NFL history. Through six weeks, there had been 12, compared with three in the first six weeks in 1994.

In the most dramatic overtime finish, the Chiefs shocked the Chargers 29-23 on Monday night when Tamarick Vanover eluded three tacklers on an 86-yard punt return for a touchdown. It was the first time in NFL history an overtime game ended on a punt return for a touchdown.

So far, the Chiefs had played three games at home, gone to overtime in all three, and won all three.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Ricky Watters

The expansion Jacksonville Jaguars, who won their first game the week before, made it two in a row by surprising Pittsburgh 20-16. As the Jaguars ran off the field, their fans chanted, "Wild Card! Wild Card! Wild Card!"...Ricky Watters rushed for 139 yards and caught 11 passes for 90 more as the Eagles trimmed the Redskins 37-34 in overtime on Gary Anderson's 35-yard field goal. Another Eagles running back, Charlie Garner, rushed for 120 yards and 3 touchdowns on only 9 carries...Steve Christie kicked 5 field goals, and Thurman Thomas rushed for 133 yards and a touchdown as the Bills pounded the Jets 29-10 for their fourth victory in a row. But Buffalo lost top wide receiver Andre Reed for six to eight weeks with a pulled hamstring...Green Bay's Brett Favre ran for 2 touchdowns against Dallas, but had his NFL-record-equaling streak of games with at least 2 touchdown passes snapped at 12.

Cowboys Call for Pain Reliever

Never underestimate Troy Aikman. The Dallas quarterback, who couldn't walk without pain, was expected to miss two games with a pulled calf muscle. But he not only played, he passed for 316 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Cowboys rebounded from their loss to Washington the previous week to beat the Packers 34-24.

"For team momentum, for morale, for a lot of reasons, it was important for me to get back," Aikman said.

Raiders Break Fast

Under new coach Mike White, the Raiders were 5-1 and off to one of the fastest starts in the league.

After routing Seattle 34-14, Oakland had scored 129 points in three successive victories—the most points in a three-game span in club history.

Harvey Williams rushed for 160 yards, scored on a 25-yard run, and threw a 13-yard touchdown pass.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	1	0	Cleveland	3	3	0	Kansas City	5	1	0	Dallas	5	1	0	Tampa Bay	4	2	0	Atlanta	4	1	0
Miami	4	1	0	Pittsburgh	3	3	0	Oakland	5	1	0	Philadelphia	3	3	0	Chicago	3	2	0	St. Louis	4	1	0
Indianapolis	3	2	0	Cincinnati	2	4	0	Denver	3	3	0	N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	Green Bay	3	2	0	San Francisco	4	1	0
New England	1	4	0	Houston	2	4	0	San Diego	3	3	0	Washington	2	4	0	Minnesota	3	2	0	Carolina	0	5	0
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0	Jacksonville	2	4	0	Seattle	2	3	0	Arizona	1	5	0	Detroit	2	3	0	New Orleans	0	5	0

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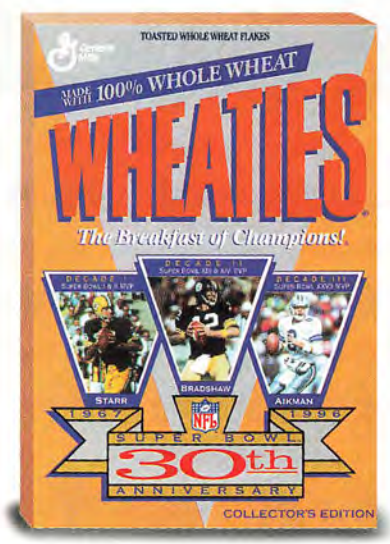

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Photos by James D. Smith

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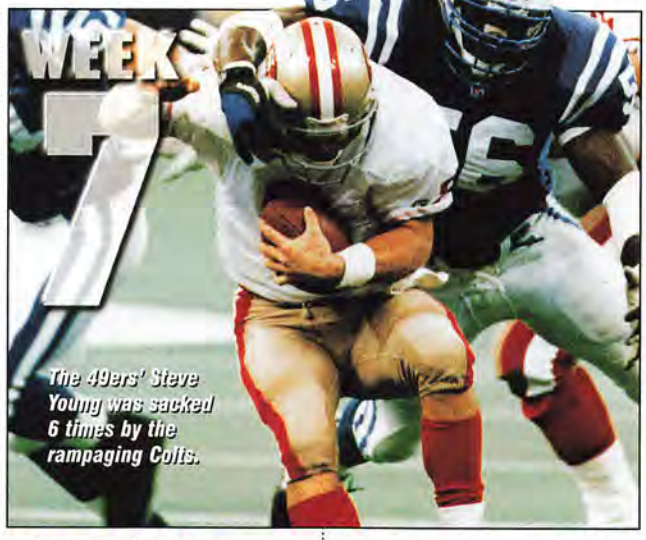
Colts Buck the Odds

A week after they surprised unbeaten Miami in overtime—and knocked quarterback Dan Marino out of action for at least two weeks—the Colts stunned the 49ers 18-17 and sent another quarterback to the sidelines.

San Francisco's Steve Young, sacked 6 times, finished the game with a severely bruised passing shoulder—and was expected to be out of action for a month. He had started 55 games in a row, the longest current streak among NFL quarterbacks.



The 49ers' Steve Young was sacked 6 times by the rampaging Colts.

The Colts' Cary Blanchard—cut by the Saints before the season started and rejected by the 49ers in an early season tryout—kicked a 41-yard field goal, his fourth of the game, to beat the 49ers with 2:36 left. Jim Harbaugh led the game-winning 62-yard drive.

Blanchard, who signed with the Colts in early October, had made the winning kick in both of his games.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 27, Seattle 21
Denver 27, Oakland 0
Kansas City 31, New England 26

NFC
Green Bay 30, Detroit 21
Philadelphia 17, **N.Y. Giants** 14
St. Louis 21, Atlanta 19
Tampa Bay 20, Minnesota 17 (OT)

INTERCONFERENCE
Carolina 26, N.Y. Jets 15
Chicago 30, **Jacksonville** 27
Dallas 23, **San Diego** 9
Indianapolis 18, San Francisco 17
New Orleans 33, Miami 30
(Home teams in bold)

Winning Isn't Everything

The Buffalo Bills had extended the longest winning streak in the NFL to five games, but they were in a somber mood.

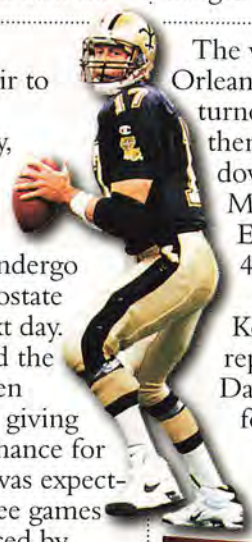
On Sunday, they outscored Seattle 27-21 as Jim Kelly passed for 3 touchdowns, including a pair to Bill Brooks.

On Monday, however, the Bills learned coach Marv Levy would undergo surgery for prostate cancer the next day.

Doctors said the cancer had been detected early, giving Levy a good chance for recovery. He was expected to miss three games and was replaced by assistant head coach Elijah Pitts.

Fish Going Bad

After going 4-0 and being heralded as the team to beat in the AFC, the Dolphins lost their second consecutive game.



The winless New Orleans Saints forced 5 turnovers, turning them into 4 touchdowns, and beat Miami 33-30. Jim Everett passed for 4 touchdowns.

Miami's Bernie Kosar, who replaced injured Dan Marino, passed for 3 touchdowns, but was intercepted twice.

Jim Everett

The Last Shall Be First

In 1994, the Rams finished last in the NFC West, and the Buccaneers finished last in the NFC Central. But, after seven weeks in 1995, both teams were in first place.

St. Louis held off the Falcons 21-19 as wide receiver Isaac Bruce caught 59- and 9-yard touchdown passes from Chris Miller. Bruce also scooped up a long, bounced lateral from punt returner Todd Kinchen and returned it 52 yards to set up his second touchdown.

Tampa Bay, on top for the second week in a row, won its fourth consecutive game when Michael Husted beat the Vikings 20-17 on a 51-yard field goal in overtime. A week earlier, Husted shaded Cincinnati on a 53-yard kick with 29 seconds left.

DON LARSON

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Buccaneers mob Husted.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Denver, which had lost 11 of its last 12 games to the Raiders, overwhelmed Oakland 27-0 on a pair of touchdown passes from John Elway to Anthony Miller, 4 field goals from Jason Elam, and great defense. The Raiders had outscored their first six opponents 183-79...The Bears became the first NFL franchise to win 600 games when Erik Kramer fired 3 touchdown passes to Curtis Conway in a 30-27 victory at Jacksonville.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	1	0	Cleveland	3	3	0	Kansas City	6	1	0	Dallas	6	1	0	Tampa Bay	5	2	0	St. Louis	5	1	0
Indianapolis	4	2	0	Pittsburgh	3	3	0	Oakland	5	2	0	Philadelphia	4	3	0	Chicago	4	2	0	Atlanta	4	2	0
Miami	4	2	0	Cincinnati	2	4	0	Denver	4	3	0	Arizona	2	5	0	Green Bay	4	2	0	San Francisco	4	2	0
New England	1	5	0	Houston	2	4	0	San Diego	3	4	0	N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	Minnesota	3	3	0	Carolina	1	5	0
N.Y. Jets	1	6	0	Jacksonville	2	5	0	Seattle	2	4	0	Washington	2	5	0	Detroit	2	4	0	New Orleans	1	5	0

KEITH F. CROSBY

Marcus Allen scored his 100th rushing touchdown.

ALLEN KEE

The Chiefs, Weather or Not

In the first half, the field was battered by rain and snow flurries. The second half was played in a snowstorm.

But 35-year-old Marcus Allen, who was born and raised in southern California, rushed for 121 yards as the Chiefs increased the best record in the NFL to 7-1 by beating Denver 21-7.

Along the way, Allen dived 1-yard through the falling snow for the 100th rushing touchdown of his NFL career. The three players ahead of him are Hall of Fame members Walter Payton (110), Jim Brown (106), and John Riggins (104).

Reversals of Fortunes

And the meek shall inherit the NFL.

At least they did in week 8 when the Jets, Bengals, and expansion Jaguars all pulled off big surprises, beating, in order, Miami, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland.

The Jets, who lost 52-14 to Miami on Opening Day, won 17-16 in the rematch as Bubby Brister threw 2 touchdown passes. It was the Dolphins' third loss in a row and second without injured quarterback Dan Marino.

Pittsburgh and Cleveland not only lost, they lost at home.

The Bengals, who had dropped eight in a row to the Steelers, won handily 27-9, with Jeff Blake firing 3 touchdown passes, including 47- and 41-yard bombs to Darnay Scott and Carl Pickens.

The Jaguars won their third game—equaling the NFL record for an expansion team—by shocking the Browns 23-15.

BERNIE NUNEZ

Patriots' Game, Set, Match

The Bills had won five in a row, and the Patriots had lost five in a row. But New England won the Monday night matchup 27-14 as rookie Curtis Martin carried 36 times for 127 yards and scored on a 20-yard run.

Buffalo's Thurman Thomas rushed for 42 yards on just 4 carries, but left the game after six minutes with a pulled hamstring.

49ers Rule!

Quarterback Steve Young was injured, the 49ers were coming off a loss, and they had to face the Rams—winners of five of their first six games—in St. Louis.

But, while Young watched in street clothes, San Francisco intercepted 4 passes by St. Louis's Chris Miller and overwhelmed the Rams 44-10.

Linebacker Ken Norton, Jr., returned 2 of the interceptions 21 and 35 yards for touchdowns. And third-year quarterback Elvis Grbac passed for 2 touchdowns, including a 35-yard collaboration with John Taylor on the 49ers' first play from scrimmage.

Ken Norton, Jr.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 27, **Pittsburgh** 9
Jacksonville 23, **Cleveland** 15
Kansas City 21, **Denver** 7
New England 27, Buffalo 14
N.Y. Jets 17, Miami 16
Oakland 30, Indianapolis 17
San Diego 35, **Seattle** 25
NFC
Atlanta 24, **Tampa Bay** 21
Carolina 20, New Orleans 3
Green Bay 38, Minnesota 21
San Francisco 44, **St. Louis** 10
Washington 36, Detroit 30 (OT)
INTERCONFERENCE
Chicago 35, Houston 32
(Home teams in bold)

Redskins 19, Lions 0

Will the Lions ever defeat the Redskins again? Corner back Darrell Green's 7-yard interception return for a touchdown (off Scott Mitchell) gave Washington a 36-30 overtime victory over Detroit and maintained the NFL's longest hex.

It was the Redskins' nineteenth successive victory (including two postseason games) over the Lions since 1965. Incredibly, Detroit *never* has won in Washington, posting an 0-18 record since the Redskins moved there in 1937.

Older...and Better

With quarterback Jeff Hostetler out with an injury, the Raiders were forced to turn to 40-year-old Vince Evans.

But Evans, who last started a game in 1993, came through, bombing Indianapolis for a career-high 335 yards, including 46- and 73-yard touchdown passes to Raghib (Rocket) Ismail. The middle-aged quarterback was the AFC offensive player of the week.

"The competitive juices are just as intense as when I was a 22-year-old," Evans said. "I was really excited."

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	2	0	Cincinnati	3	4	0	Kansas City	7	1	0	Dallas	6	1	0	Chicago	5	2	0	Atlanta	5	2	0
Indianapolis	4	3	0	Cleveland	3	4	0	Oakland	6	2	0	Philadelphia	4	3	0	Green Bay	5	2	0	St. Louis	5	2	0
Miami	4	3	0	Pittsburgh	3	4	0	Denver	4	4	0	Washington	3	5	0	Tampa Bay	5	3	0	San Francisco	5	2	0
New England	2	5	0	Jacksonville	3	5	0	San Diego	4	4	0	Arizona	2	5	0	Minnesota	3	4	0	Carolina	2	5	0
N.Y. Jets	2	6	0	Houston	2	5	0	Seattle	2	5	0	N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	Detroit	2	5	0	New Orleans	1	6	0

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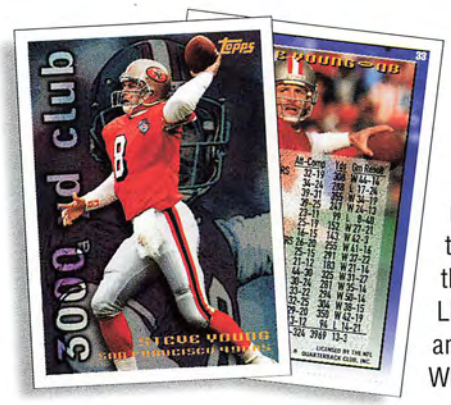

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Kings of the NFL Rodeo

Halfway through the season, the Dallas Cowboys looked like the best team in the NFL.

Deion Sanders

JAMES D. SMITH

After falling behind Atlanta 10-0 in the second quarter, the Cowboys scored on four consecutive possessions and went on to win 28-13 to boost their record to 7-1.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 167 yards and a touchdown, Troy Aikman passed for 2 touchdowns, and Michael Irvin had 135 receiving yards, including a 43-yard touchdown catch. It was Irvin's sixth 100-yard game in a row, tying the second-longest such streak in NFL history.

On defense, free-agent cornerback Deion Sanders made his first appearance and broke up a touchdown pass in the end zone. Sanders also played briefly at wide receiver and barely missed making a diving 48-yard catch at the Atlanta goal line.

"Every time I went on the field, I could hear the Falcons screaming, 'Watch Deion, watch Deion,'" Sanders said. "It was really fun to play offense. It kept the game from getting boring."

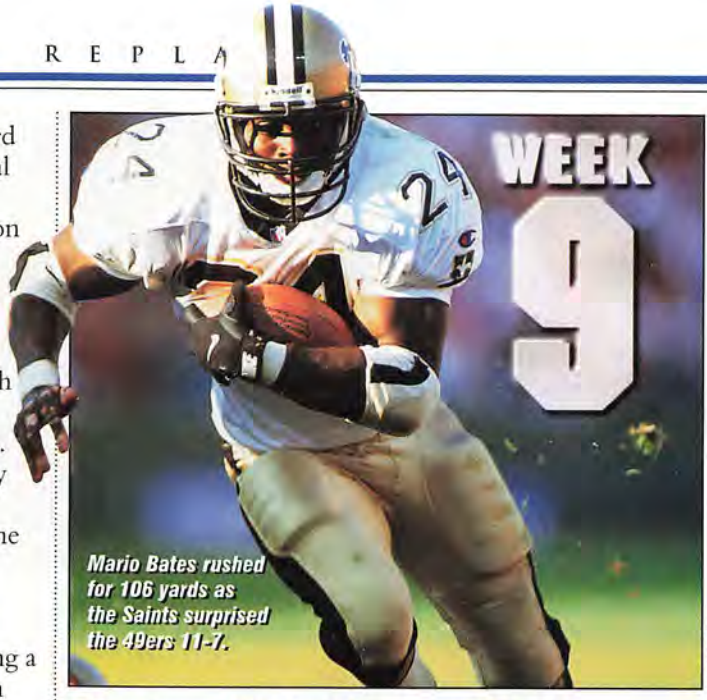
Birds of Prey

The Eagles were making a move under new coach Ray Rhodes.

Ranked first in the NFL in defense, they sacked Chris Miller 6 times, forced 4 turnovers, and turned back the Rams 20-9 for their fourth consecutive victory.

Defensive end William Fuller, who had 2 of the sacks, also forced 2 fumbles, including one that 306-pound tackle Kevin Johnson carried 37 yards for a touchdown.

"I was going to do a dance," Johnson said, "but I was tired and fell down."



Mario Bates rushed for 106 yards as the Saints surprised the 49ers 11-7.

GREG TROTT

Playing With Plenty of Pain

It was a big day for Jerry Rice and a bad day for the 49ers.

On the afternoon that Rice broke James Lofton's NFL career receiving yardage record (he raised it to 14,040 yards), San Francisco was stunned 11-7 by a New Orleans team that had won only once in seven previous games. The 49ers dropped to 5-3.

Playing without injured quarterback Steve Young for the second week in a row, the 49ers also lost fullback William Floyd for the year with a knee injury.

In the Swim Again

Having lost three straight games after a 4-0 start, the Dolphins were desperate.

It helped that quarterback Dan Marino returned after missing two games with knee and hip injuries. It also helped that Buffalo had to play without injured running back Thurman Thomas and injured wide receiver Andre Reed.

So Miami, which had lost eight of its last nine games to the Bills at home, won this one 23-6. Bernie Parmalee gained 131 yards rushing and receiving and scored on a 20-yard run, while Terry Kirby totaled 115 and scored on an 11-yard run.

SCORES

AFC
Cleveland 29, **Cincinnati** 26 (OT)
Indianapolis 17, N.Y. Jets 10
Miami 23, Buffalo 6
Pittsburgh 24, Jacksonville 7
NFC
Chicago 14, **Minnesota** 6
Dallas 28, Atlanta 13
Detroit 24, Green Bay 16
New Orleans 11, **San Francisco** 7
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 15
Philadelphia 20, St. Louis 9
INTERCONFERENCE
Arizona 20, Seattle 14 (OT)
Carolina 20, **New England** 17 (OT)
Houston 19, Tampa Bay 7
(Home teams in bold)

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Three overtime games in week 9 increased the season total to 17. The NFL single-season record was 19, set in 1983...The Bears snapped their eight-game losing streak on Monday Night Football by defeating the Vikings 14-6 to take over sole possession of first place in the NFC Central Division...Carolina became the first expansion team to win three games in a row, surprising the Patriots 20-17 on John Kasay's 29-yard field goal in overtime. Panthers rookie quarterback Kerry Collins passed for 309 yards and 2 touchdowns...Barry Sanders rushed for 167 yards, and Scott Mitchell fired 3 touchdown passes to Herman Moore as Detroit beat Green Bay 24-16. With 9,510 yards in his career, Sanders moved into tenth place on the NFL's all-time rushing list.

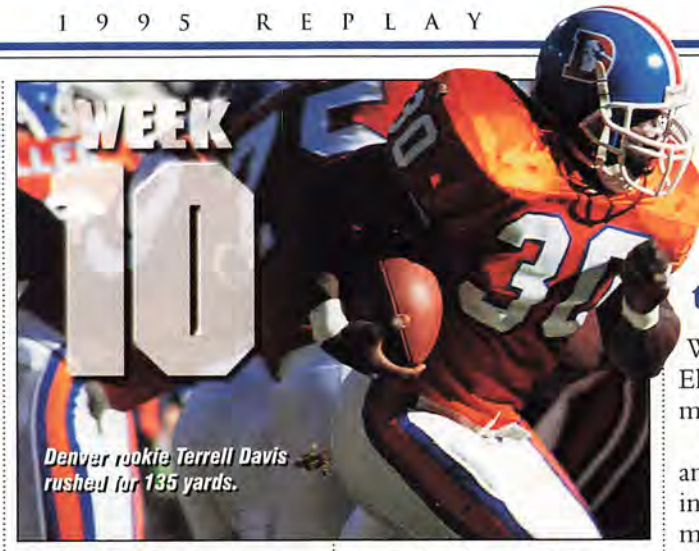
AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	3	0	Cleveland	4	4	0	Kansas City	7	1	0	Dallas	7	1	0	Chicago	6	2	0	Atlanta	5	3	0
Indianapolis	5	3	0	Pittsburgh	4	4	0	Oakland	6	2	0	Philadelphia	5	3	0	Green Bay	5	3	0	St. Louis	5	3	0
Miami	5	3	0	Cincinnati	3	5	0	Denver	4	4	0	Arizona	3	5	0	Tampa Bay	5	4	0	San Francisco	5	3	0
New England	2	6	0	Houston	3	5	0	San Diego	4	4	0	N.Y. Giants	3	5	0	Detroit	3	5	0	Carolina	3	5	0
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	Jacksonville	3	6	0	Seattle	2	6	0	Washington	3	6	0	Minnesota	3	5	0	New Orleans	2	6	0

San Francisco Blues ...

Nine months earlier, the 49ers ran away with the Super Bowl. Now, in week 10, they couldn't beat an expansion team.

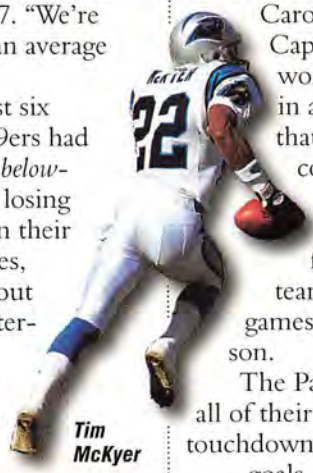
"This is as about as low as we can get," said center Jesse Sapolu, after San Francisco turned the ball over 5 times and lost to Carolina 13-7. "We're playing like an average team."

In their last six games, the 49ers had played like a *below-average* team, losing four times. In their last two games, playing without injured quarterback Steve Young, they had scored a total of only 14 points.



Denver rookie Terrell Davis rushed for 135 yards.

JOE POELLOT


Tim McKyer

GREG TROTT

San Francisco was not alone in losing to Carolina. Dom Capers's team had won four games in a row—not that it was any comfort to the 49ers—to become the first expansion team to win four games in its first season.

The Panthers scored all of their points—a touchdown and 2 field goals—after turnovers by San Francisco. Former 49ers cornerback Tim McKyer intercepted Elvis Grbac and sprinted 96 yards for the touchdown. Meanwhile, rookie cornerback Tyrone Poole forced Jerry Rice and John Taylor to fumble the ball away at Carolina's 1- and 3-yard lines.

...and, Yes, the Cleveland Blues

It was a somber week in Cleveland.

On Sunday, with rumors flying that the Browns were moving to Baltimore, Cleveland took a 7-0 lead, then collapsed as Houston scored on seven consecutive series to win 37-10.

On Monday, Browns owner Art Modell announced that, after 50 years in Cleveland, his team indeed would be moving to Baltimore, beginning with the 1996 season.

Welcome to the 40,000 Club

Warren Moon and John Elway reached the same milestone in week 10.

They became the sixth and seventh quarterbacks in NFL history to pass for more than 40,000 yards as they led their teams to victories over the Packers and Cardinals. (Moon also threw for 21,228 yards in six seasons in the Canadian Football League.)

In leading the Vikings to a 27-24 victory, Moon passed for 3 touchdowns and cheered as Fuad Reveiz's 39-yard field goal on the final play won the game. Vikings linebacker Jeff Brady set up the kick with an interception.

In Denver, Elway also passed for 3 touchdowns and rookie Terrell Davis rushed for 135 yards and a score as the Broncos routed the Cardinals 38-6.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Michael Irvin caught 8 passes for 115 yards and a touchdown as Dallas beat the Eagles 34-12. It gave Irvin an NFL-record-tying seven consecutive 100-yard games. **Emmitt Smith** rushed for 158 yards and 2 scores...The Falcons were all alone in first place in the NFC West after stopping the Lions 34-22. Atlanta's **Jeff George** completed 31 of 40 passes for 362 yards and a touchdown...**Elijah Pitts** got his first victory as acting head coach (subbing for **Marv Levy**, who had prostate cancer surgery) as the Bills beat the Colts 16-10. Indianapolis used three quarterbacks because of injuries, and Bills linebacker **Bryce Paup** sacked all three of them. His 11 sacks led the NFL.

Day of the Dolphins...Finally!

The Dolphins had not won in San Diego since 1978—a streak of five consecutive losses, including a bitter 22-21 defeat in the 1994 divisional playoffs.

But Dan Marino passed for 291 yards and 2 touchdowns and Bernie Parmalee ran for 103 yards as Miami defeated the Chargers 24-14 to stay tied for first in the AFC East.

San Diego lost more than the game. AFC rushing leader Natrone Means left with a strained groin early in the first quarter and would be out two to four weeks.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 16, **Indianapolis** 10
Houston 37, **Cleveland** 10
Miami 24, **San Diego** 14
New England 20, **N.Y. Jets** 7
Oakland 20, **Cincinnati** 17

NFC
Atlanta 34, Detroit 22
Carolina 13, **San Francisco** 7
Dallas 34, Philadelphia 12
Minnesota 27, Green Bay 24
New Orleans 19, St. Louis 10

INTERCONFERENCE
Denver 38, Arizona 6
Kansas City 24, Washington 3
Pittsburgh 37, **Chicago** 34 (OT)
Seattle 30, N.Y. Giants 28
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	6	3	0	Pittsburgh	5	4	0	Kansas City	8	1	0	Dallas	8	1	0	Chicago	6	3	0	Atlanta	6	3	0
Miami	6	3	0	Cleveland	4	5	0	Oakland	7	2	0	Philadelphia	5	4	0	Green Bay	5	4	0	St. Louis	5	4	0
Indianapolis	5	4	0	Houston	4	5	0	Denver	5	4	0	Arizona	3	6	0	Tampa Bay	5	4	0	San Francisco	5	4	0
New England	3	6	0	Cincinnati	3	6	0	San Diego	4	5	0	N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	Minnesota	4	5	0	Carolina	4	5	0
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	Jacksonville	3	6	0	Seattle	3	6	0	Washington	3	7	0	Detroit	3	6	0	New Orleans	3	6	0

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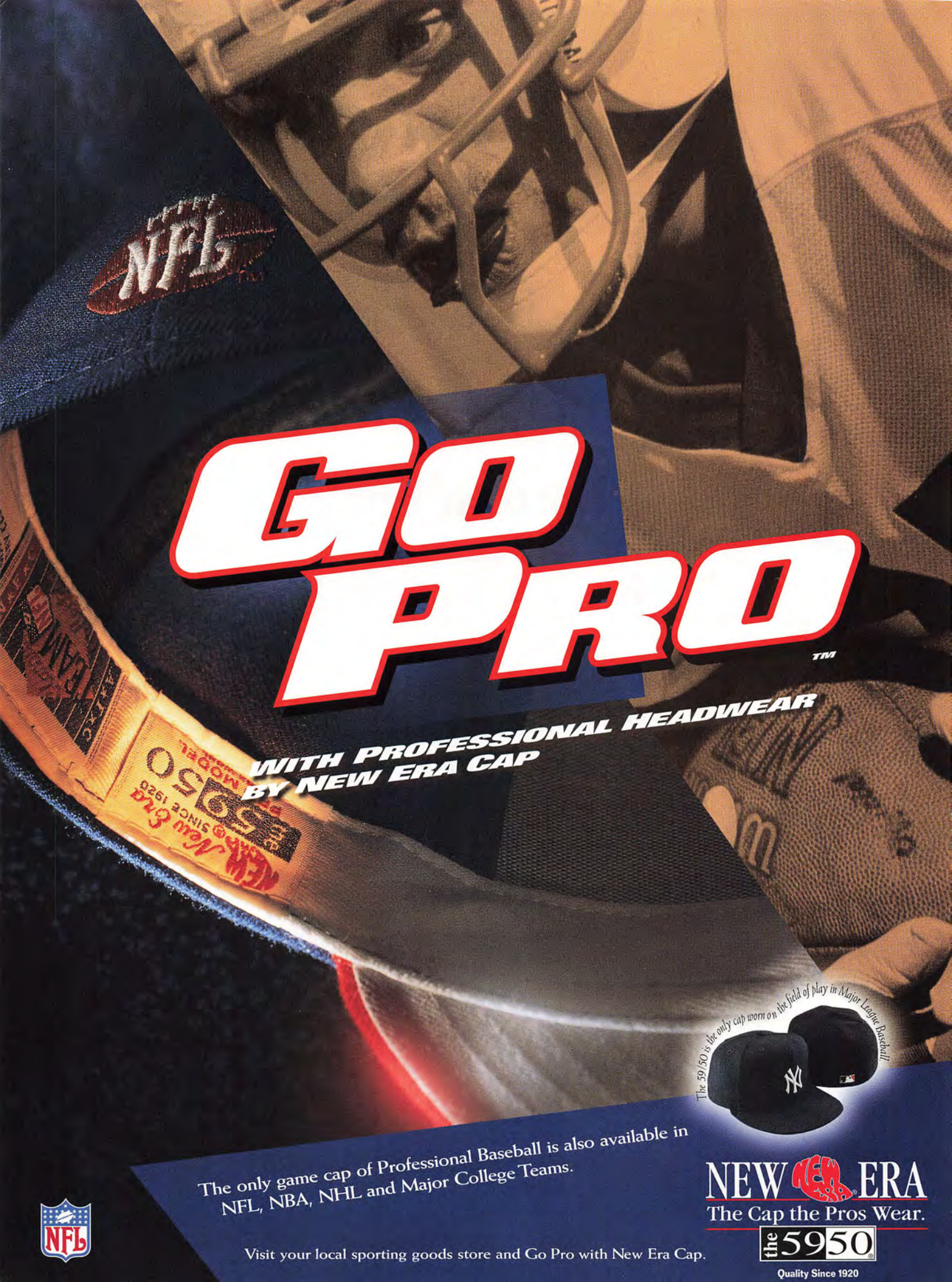
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Champions Get Off the Canvas

JOE PATRONITE

Jerry Rice's 81-yard touchdown catch-and-run ignited the 49ers.

Never underestimate the heart of a champion.

"Everyone was writing us off," 49ers quarterback Elvis Grbac said. "Everybody thought we were going to lose. And we proved it differently."

One week after losing to the first-year Carolina Panthers, and playing without four injured starters on offense, including quarterback Steve Young, the Super Bowl-champion 49ers forced 4 turnovers and shocked the once-beaten Cowboys 38-20 in Texas Stadium.

Grbac passed for 305 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a short pass that Jerry Rice turned into an 81-yard score on the second play of the game. Twenty-three seconds later, safety Merton Hanks returned a fumble 38 yards for another touchdown, and the 49ers led 14-0 only 84 seconds into the game.

Trailing 17-0 later in the period, Dallas lost quarterback Troy Aikman with a bruised knee. The Cowboys never recovered.

The 49ers' celebration ended on Monday, however. Young, who already had missed four games, had arthroscopic surgery on his passing shoulder and was expected to be out three or four more weeks.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Joey Galloway

BERNIE NUNEZ

Coach **Marv Levy** returned to the Bills after missing three games because of prostate cancer surgery, and Buffalo responded with a 23-17 victory over the Falcons. Safety **Kurt Schulz** intercepted a pass by **Jeff George** in the end zone with 52 seconds left to preserve the win...The Vikings' 30-24 victory over the Cardinals came in the season's nineteenth overtime game, tying the NFL record with six weeks left. Minnesota won when **Qadry Ismail** caught a 5-yard pass from **Warren Moon**, broke a tackle, and turned it into a 50-yard touchdown. Moon passed for 4 touchdowns...In Seattle's 47-30 victory over Jacksonville, rookie **Joey Galloway** caught 38- and 23-yard touchdown passes from **Rick Mirer** and also scored on an 86-yard reverse.

Chiefs—Literally

When quarterback Joe Montana retired in the offseason, most pro football fans thought the Chiefs would disappear with him.

But, after a 22-7 victory over the Chargers, the 9-1 Chiefs owned the NFL's best record—their first 9-1 start since the 1969 season, when they won Super Bowl IV.

Marcus Allen scored on a 1-yard dive and boosted his career combined yardage total to 15,502. That sent him past Jim Brown to third on the NFL's all-time list.

Impressive Tale of Tape

A week earlier, Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre suffered a sprained ankle in a loss to Minnesota. His 54-game streak of starts was in jeopardy.

But Favre, his ankle heavily taped, not only played but passed for 336 yards and a club-record-tying 5 touchdowns as the Packers outscored the Bears 35-28 and moved into a first-place tie with Chicago in the NFC Central.

Brett Favre

Favre threw 2 touchdown passes to both wide receiver Robert Brooks (29 and 44 yards) and running back Edgar Bennett (17- and 16-yard screen passes).

Marino by the Numbers

Dan Marino had a big day. He also had a bad one.

Marino passed for 333 yards and 2 touchdowns against New England to shatter Fran Tarkenton's NFL record for career passing yardage (47,003). Marino finished the day with 47,299. He also had his fifty-first 300-yard game, tying Dan Fouts's NFL mark.

But Marino also had 2 passes intercepted and lost a fumble as the Patriots won 34-17. New England rookie Curtis Martin rushed for 142 yards and 2 touchdowns.

DAVID STLUKA

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 32, **Houston** 25
Kansas City 22, **San Diego** 7
New England 34, **Miami** 17
Pittsburgh 20, Cleveland 3
Seattle 47, **Jacksonville** 30

NFC
Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 24
Green Bay 35, Chicago 28
Minnesota 30, **Arizona** 24 (OT)
St. Louis 28, Carolina 17
San Francisco 38, **Dallas** 20

INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 23, Atlanta 17
New Orleans 17, Indianapolis 14
Oakland 17, **N.Y. Giants** 13
Philadelphia 31, Denver 13
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	3	0	Pittsburgh	6	4	0	Kansas City	9	1	0	Dallas	8	2	0	Chicago	6	4	0	Atlanta	6	4	0
Miami	6	4	0	Cincinnati	4	6	0	Oakland	8	2	0	Philadelphia	6	4	0	Green Bay	6	4	0	St. Louis	6	4	0
Indianapolis	5	5	0	Cleveland	4	6	0	Denver	5	5	0	Arizona	3	7	0	Minnesota	5	5	0	San Francisco	6	4	0
New England	4	6	0	Houston	4	6	0	San Diego	4	6	0	N.Y. Giants	3	7	0	Tampa Bay	5	5	0	Carolina	4	6	0
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	Jacksonville	3	7	0	Seattle	4	6	0	Washington	3	7	0	Detroit	4	6	0	New Orleans	4	6	0

The Rich Get Richer

It was a big week for Dallas and San Francisco.

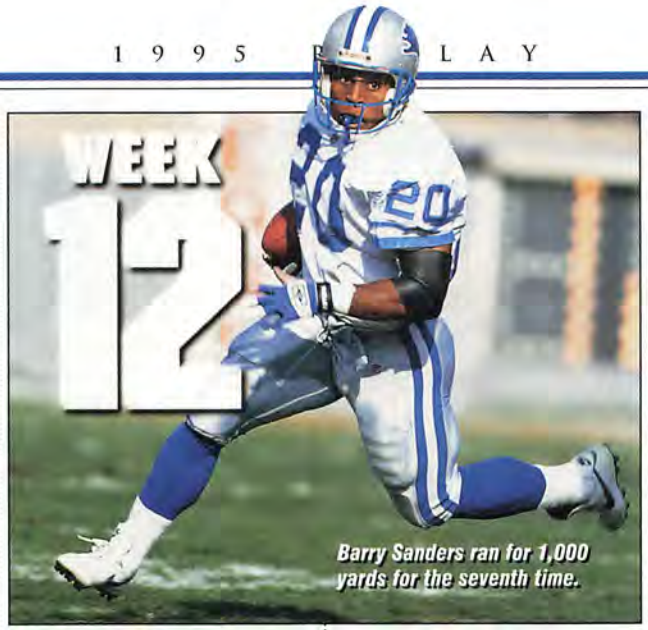
The NFC teams that have won the last three Super Bowls showed the potential to win another as they trampled AFC contenders Oakland and Miami.

The Cowboys rebounded from an 18-point loss to San Francisco the previous week with a 34-21 rout of the Raiders.

The 49ers made it two impressive victories in a row by overwhelming the Dolphins 44-20.

"The loss last week cut deep with a lot of people," Dallas running back Emmitt Smith said. "Very deep. I think this game was very important for us."

Smith rushed for 110 yards and 3 touchdowns, while Troy Aikman completed 19 of 24 passes.



Barry Sanders ran for 1,000 yards for the seventh time.

TONY TOMSIC

Michael Irvin's 7 catches (1 for a touchdown) boosted his career total to 493, a Dallas record.

In Miami, the Dolphins' Dan Marino threw 2 touchdown passes to tie Fran Tarkenton's NFL record of 342.

But he was upstaged by the 49ers' Elvis Grbac, who passed for 382 yards and 4 touchdowns—47- and 46-yard scoring strikes to Jerry Rice and 23- and 2-yard tosses to Brent Jones.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Detroit's Barry Sanders became the second NFL back to rush for 1,000 yards in his first seven seasons (tying Eric Dickerson). Sanders ran for 120 yards and 2 touchdowns in the Lions' 24-17 victory over the Bears...No previous expansion team had won more than three games, but Carolina improved its record to 5-6 by holding Arizona to 7 first downs and 96 yards and sacking Dave Krieg 6 times in a 27-7 victory...Terrell Davis, a sixth-round draft choice, rushed for a club-rookie-record 176 yards, including all 53 on the game-winning drive, as Denver beat the Chargers 30-27. Jason Elam's 32-yard field goal with two seconds left decided it.

Goodby Oilers, Hello Chiefs

On Thursday, Oilers owner Bud Adams announced he would move his team to Nashville in 1998 (and perhaps play somewhere else in Tennessee in 1996 and 1997).

On Sunday, the Oilers lost a 20-13 thriller to Kansas City. It was the Chiefs' seventh consecutive win, tying a club record and increasing their NFL-best record to 10-1.

Kansas City won when cornerback Mark Collins picked up a fumble by Houston running back Todd McNair and raced 34 yards for the winning touchdown with 15 seconds left to play. Safety Doug Terry's tackle popped the ball loose.

Houston had tied the score 13-13 with 1:46 left on Chris Chandler's 40-yard touchdown pass to rookie Chris Sanders.

How High the Moon

On Saturday, Warren Moon celebrated his thirty-ninth birthday.

On Sunday, he played as if he was 29, passing for 338 yards and 4 touchdowns, including 2 to Cris Carter, as Minnesota routed the Saints 43-24. In three consecutive victories, Moon had 11 touchdown passes and no interceptions.

Role Reversal

The Bengals ripped the Steelers 27-9 on a Thursday night in October. In the third quarter of their rematch in November, Cincinnati led Pittsburgh 31-13.

And lost 49-31.

Incredibly, the Steelers scored 36 unanswered points, amassed 556 yards, and won their fourth consecutive game.

Neil O'Donnell passed for 377 yards and 3 touchdowns, and Byron (Bam) Morris rushed for 101 yards and 3 scores. Rookie Kordell Stewart, who had played quarterback, wide receiver, and running back this season, caught a 71-yard touchdown pass as a receiver.

Kordell Stewart

MICHAEL P. FABUS

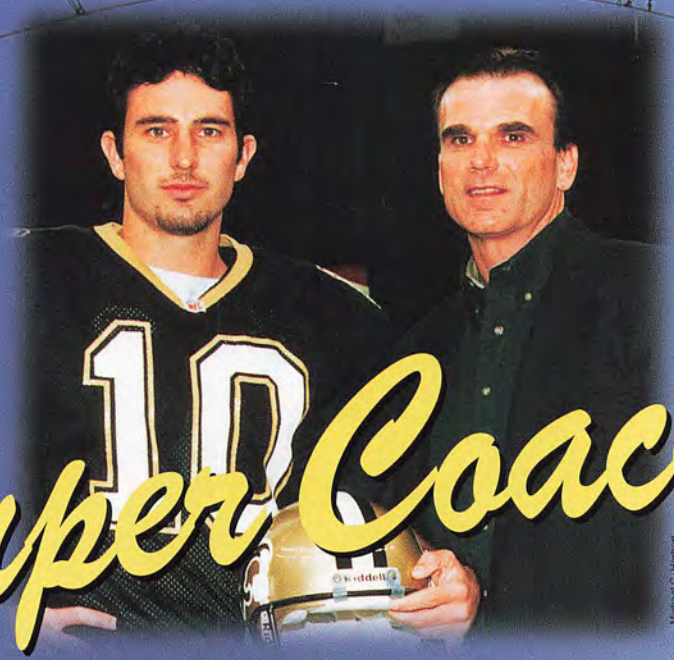
SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 28, **N.Y. Jets** 26
Denver 30, San Diego 27
Indianapolis 24, **New England** 10
Kansas City 20, Houston 13
Pittsburgh 49, **Cincinnati** 31

NFC
Atlanta 31, St. Louis 6
Carolina 27, Arizona 7
Detroit 24, **Chicago** 17
Minnesota 43, New Orleans 24
Philadelphia 28, N.Y. Giants 19

INTERCONFERENCE
Dallas 34, **Oakland** 21
Green Bay 31, **Cleveland** 20
San Francisco 44, **Miami** 20
Seattle 27, **Washington** 20
Tampa Bay 17, Jacksonville 16
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	3	0	Pittsburgh	7	4	0	Kansas City	10	1	0	Dallas	9	2	0	Green Bay	7	4	0	Atlanta	7	4	0
Indianapolis	6	5	0	Cincinnati	4	7	0	Oakland	8	3	0	Philadelphia	7	4	0	Chicago	6	5	0	San Francisco	7	4	0
Miami	6	5	0	Cleveland	4	7	0	Denver	6	5	0	Arizona	3	8	0	Minnesota	6	5	0	St. Louis	6	5	0
New England	4	7	0	Houston	4	7	0	Seattle	5	6	0	N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	Tampa Bay	6	5	0	Carolina	5	6	0
N.Y. Jets	2	9	0	Jacksonville	3	8	0	San Diego	4	7	0	Washington	3	8	0	Detroit	5	6	0	New Orleans	4	7	0



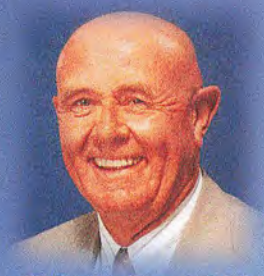
Super Coach!

Saluting the NFL High School Football Coach of the Year

The players of the National Football League didn't get where they are by accident. It took a combination of talent, hard work, patience...and good coaching. That is why the NFL is proud to announce the creation of the first NFL High School Football Coach of the Year award, which will be presented annually to a deserving person who had a meaningful impact during the formative years of an NFL player. The first recipient is Bob Ladouceur of De La Salle High in Concord, California, who was nominated by Doug Brien of the New Orleans Saints. Ladouceur has a 188-14-1 record in 17 seasons at De La Salle. He is the NFL's guest at Super Bowl XXX in Phoenix. Ladouceur also received a $5,000 cash award, while a $10,000 grant was made to local youth and high school football programs in his name and Brien's name. Congratulations to Bob Ladouceur and every other high school football coach for the outstanding work they do for young people.

Melvin Jones, Lafayette High (Newport News, Virginia)
Finalist—Nominated by Mel Gray (Oilers)

Sal Ciampi, East Islip High (East Islip, New York)
Finalist—Nominated by Boomer Esiason (Jets)



Bill Gordon, Rancocas High (Mt. Holly, New Jersey)
Finalist—Nominated by Irving Fryar (Dolphins)

Otis Gray, Dillard High (Fort Lauderdale, Florida)
Finalist—Nominated by Isaac Bruce (Rams)

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

The National Football League Salutes

VANESSA VIZCAINO

"As a Cuban-American, I am thankful that NFL Charities is dedicated to educational funds that assist minority students. This commitment by the NFL clubs will enable me to pursue aspirations of a better life and a secure future."

Vanessa Vizcaino dreams of becoming the first doctor in her family and helping the people in her south Florida community. Her family continues to struggle financially; her father is the sole provider for their family of six, including two grandparents. Vanessa has been able to pursue her higher educational goals through financial assistance by the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Through its support of this scholarship fund, NFL Charities is helping to make Vanessa's dreams a reality.

Founded in 1973, NFL Charities has allocated more than $15 million in recent years to promote education, medical research, and physical fitness.

As the National Football League celebrates its 75th anniversary, the NFL clubs are proud of the role that NFL Charities has played in hundreds of communities across the nation.

NFL Charities. Making a difference in the lives of people!

Records Fall, So Do Dolphins

Dan Marino continued to set records, but the Miami Dolphins continued to lose.

Marino passed for 4 touchdowns against the Colts to eclipse Fran Tarkenton's NFL record for career scoring passes (342), which he had tied in week 12. But the Dolphins lost again 36-28.

So far in 1995, Marino had broken three of Tarkenton's career marks, including records for completions and passing yards, but Miami had lost all three games.

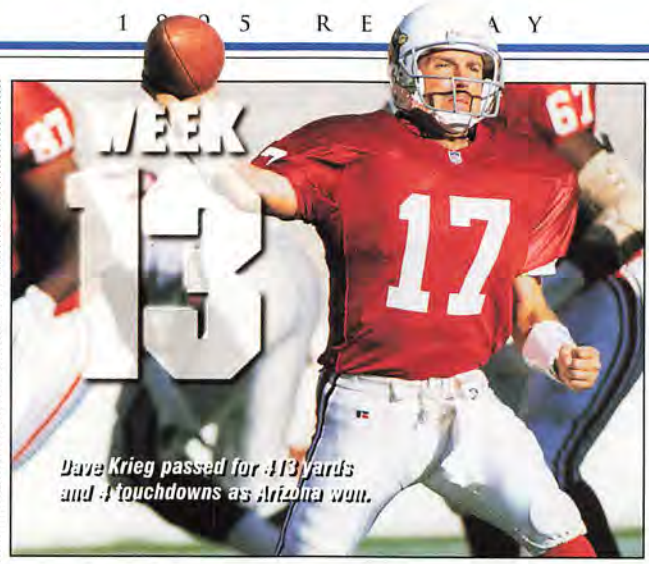
"We feel like we have the talent and we're capable, but we're not winning games," a downcast Marino said. "I'd rather not have broken the record if we could have come away with a win."

Marino's 6-yard pass to Keith Byars in the second quarter broke the touchdown record, and he added 2 touchdown passes to O.J. McDuffie and 1 to Irving Fryar.

Dan Marino and Keith Byars

KEVIN TERRELL/NFLP

But Jim Harbaugh passed for 3 touchdowns and ran for another as the Colts took a 24-0 lead and never trailed. Linebacker Tony Bennett sacked Marino 3 times, once for a safety, and forced a fumble to set up a touchdown.



Dave Krieg passed for 413 yards and 4 touchdowns as Arizona won.

JAMES SMITH

Dallas Does the AFC

Dallas, which had won two of the last three Super Bowls, was dominating the AFC again.

On Thanksgiving Day, the Cowboys bolted to a 14-0 first-quarter lead and stopped Kansas City 24-12. The AFC Chiefs had come into the game with an NFL-best 10-1 record. Four days earlier, the Cowboys turned back AFC contender Oakland.

Emmitt Smith ran 15 yards for a touchdown, and Michael Irvin made a one-handed, juggling, 33-yard touchdown catch in the Cowboys' 14-0 start. Irvin caught 11 passes for 121 yards for his tenth 100-yard receiving game this season, tying Charley Hennigan's NFL record.

Rampaging Receivers

It was not a good weekend for defensive backs in the NFL.

Eleven quarterbacks fired 3 or more touchdown passes. Miami's Dan Marino, Detroit's Scott Mitchell, and Arizona's Dave Krieg each threw 4.

Mitchell, playing on a sprained ankle, passed for a Detroit-record 410 yards in the Lions' 44-38 victory over the Vikings (outdueling Warren Moon, who passed for 3 touchdowns). Detroit wide receivers Brett Perriman (2 touchdown catches), Herman Moore (1), and Johnnie Morton (1) all surpassed 100 receiving yards.

Krieg passed for 413 yards and 4 touchdowns (to 3 for Atlanta's Jeff George) to lead the Cardinals over the Falcons 40-37 in overtime. Greg Davis's 28-yard field goal, his fourth of the game, won it.

It was the Cardinals' third consecutive overtime game at home and the league's twentieth this season, breaking the NFL record.

J.J. Stokes

AROUND THE LEAGUE

With four weeks to go in the regular season, Pittsburgh was the hottest team in the league. The Steelers won their fifth consecutive game, stopping the Browns 20-17. Pittsburgh killed the last 8:52 of the game on a 16-play drive. Cornerback Willie Williams set up 10 points with an interception and a fumble recovery on Cleveland's first two plays... After missing five games with a shoulder injury, Steve Young returned to pass for 3 touchdowns (2 to rookie J.J. Stokes) in the 49ers' 41-13 rout of the Rams...Ricky Watters rushed for 124 yards and both touchdowns as the Eagles (7-1 since Rodney Peete became the starting quarterback) beat the Redskins 14-7...Cornerback Dwayne Harper intercepted Vince Evans (subbing for injured Jeff Hostetler) 3 times as the Chargers beat the Raiders 12-6.

SCORES

AFC
Cincinnati 17, **Jacksonville** 13
Houston 42, Denver 33
Indianapolis 36, Miami 28
New England 35, **Buffalo** 25
N.Y. Jets 16, **Seattle** 10
Pittsburgh 20, **Cleveland** 17
San Diego 12, Oakland 6
NFC
Arizona 40, Atlanta 37 (OT)
Chicago 27, **N.Y. Giants** 24
Detroit 44, Minnesota 38
Green Bay 35, Tampa Bay 13
New Orleans 34, Carolina 26
Philadelphia 14, **Washington** 7
San Francisco 41, St. Louis 13
INTERCONFERENCE
Dallas 24, Kansas City 12

(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	4	0	Pittsburgh	8	4	0	Kansas City	10	2	0	Dallas	10	2	0	Green Bay	8	4	0	San Francisco	8	4	0
Indianapolis	7	5	0	Cincinnati	5	7	0	Oakland	8	4	0	Philadelphia	8	4	0	Chicago	7	5	0	Atlanta	7	5	0
Miami	6	6	0	Houston	5	7	0	Denver	6	6	0	Arizona	4	8	0	Detroit	6	6	0	St. Louis	6	6	0
New England	5	7	0	Cleveland	4	8	0	San Diego	5	7	0	N.Y. Giants	3	9	0	Minnesota	6	6	0	Carolina	5	7	0
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	Jacksonville	3	9	0	Seattle	5	7	0	Washington	3	9	0	Tampa Bay	6	6	0	New Orleans	5	7	0

DAVID DRAPKIN

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Chiefs Are Surprise Champions

Joe Phillips couldn't resist gloating.

"All summer long, people talked about us finishing in last place, about us being *nothing*," the Chiefs' defensive tackle said. "Well, guess who just won the thing?"

Kansas City, that's who. The Chiefs, in their first season after quarterback Joe Montana retired, clinched the AFC West title on the first Sunday of December with a 29-23 victory over the Raiders at Oakland.

Former Raiders running back Marcus Allen rushed for 124 yards and a touchdown as Kansas City beat Oakland for the twelfth time in their last 13 meetings. Allen, 35, also caught 3 passes for 33 yards to become the first player in NFL history to gain 10,000 rushing yards and 5,000 receiving yards.

Pittsburgh joined the Chiefs in the playoffs by clinching its third AFC Central title in coach Bill Cowher's four years with a 21-7 victory over Houston.

Neil O'Donnell passed for 2 touchdowns and Byron (Bam) Morris rushed for 102 yards, including a 30-yard scoring run, as the Steelers won their sixth consecutive game.

SCORES

AFC
Denver 31, Jacksonville 23
Kansas City 29, **Oakland** 23
Pittsburgh 21, Houston 7
San Diego 31, Cleveland 13
NFC
Detroit 27, Chicago 7
Minnesota 31, Tampa Bay 17
N.Y. Giants 10, **Arizona** 6
Washington 24, **Dallas** 17
INTERCONFERENCE
Carolina 13, Indianapolis 10
Green Bay 24, Cincinnati 10
Miami 21, Atlanta 20
New Orleans 31, **New England** 17
St. Louis 23, **N.Y. Jets** 20
San Francisco 27, Buffalo 17
Seattle 26, Philadelphia 14
(Home teams in bold)

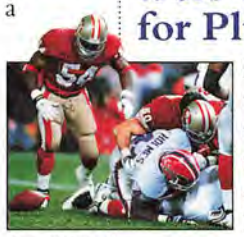
Brett Favre Has Packers on a Roll

No quarterback in the NFL was hotter than the Packers' Brett Favre.

As he led Green Bay to its fourth consecutive victory, Favre passed for 339 yards—his fifth 300-yard game of the season—and 3 touchdowns. In those four victories, the Packers' quarterback had 14 touchdown passes and 1 interception.

Favre had passed for 101 touchdowns in his 62-game career. Only Dan Marino (44 games) and Johnny Unitas (53) reached 100 in fewer games.

49ers Call for Plummer



GEORGE ROSE

Lee Woodall

Midway through the third quarter, the Bills and 49ers were locked in a 10-10 tie. But Buffalo had first-and-goal on San Francisco's 1.

When rookie running back Darick Holmes dived into the line, however, 49ers linebacker Gary Plummer met him in mid-air, and the ball popped loose. Linebacker Lee Woodall scooped it up and raced 96 yards for a touchdown, which sent the 49ers to a 27-17 victory—their fourth win in a row.

Redskins Pull a Rare Double

In October, Washington stunned Dallas 27-23, but the Cowboys had an excuse. They lost quarterback Troy Aikman in the first quarter with an injury.

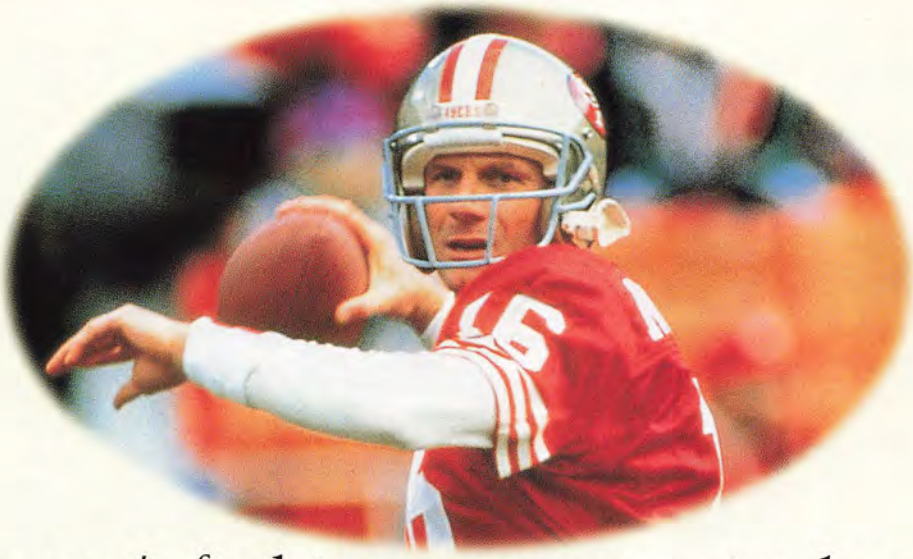
There were no excuses in December. The Redskins (4-9) stunned the Cowboys (10-3) at Dallas 24-17 to sweep the season series. The efficient Redskins had no turnovers, committed only 2 penalties, and got 98 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns from Terry Allen. Heath Shuler passed for a touchdown.

Despite the loss, Michael Irvin of Dallas had 10 catches for 101 yards, which gave him 11 100-yard games this season, an NFL record.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

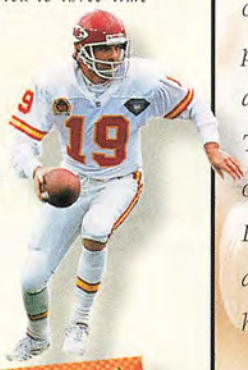
Dan Marino's 21-yard touchdown pass to Irving Fryar—who made a juggling catch with 11 seconds left—lifted the Dolphins over the Falcons 21-20. In all, Marino passed for 343 yards, the fifty-second 300-yard game of his career, to break the NFL record he shared with Dan Fouts...John Elway threw touchdown passes to four different receivers as the Broncos outscored the Jaguars 31-23. Wide receiver Jimmy Smith of Jacksonville scored 3 times as he recovered a blocked punt in the end zone, raced 89 yards with a lateral from Desmond Howard on a kickoff return, and caught a 14-yard pass from Steve Beuerlein...Detroit won its fourth consecutive game, routing the Bears 27-7. Herman Moore caught a club-record 14 passes (for 183 yards), including a tackle-breaking 46-yard catch and run. Scott Mitchell passed for 3 touchdowns.

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	5	0	Pittsburgh	9	4	0	Kansas City	11	2	0	Dallas	10	3	0	Green Bay	9	4	0	San Francisco	9	4	0
Indianapolis	7	6	0	Cincinnati	5	8	0	Oakland	8	5	0	Philadelphia	8	5	0	Chicago	7	6	0	Atlanta	7	6	0
Miami	7	6	0	Houston	5	8	0	Denver	7	6	0	Arizona	4	9	0	Detroit	7	6	0	St. Louis	7	6	0
New England	5	8	0	Cleveland	4	9	0	San Diego	6	7	0	N.Y. Giants	4	9	0	Minnesota	7	6	0	Carolina	6	7	0
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	Jacksonville	3	10	0	Seattle	6	7	0	Washington	4	9	0	Tampa Bay	6	7	0	New Orleans	6	7	0

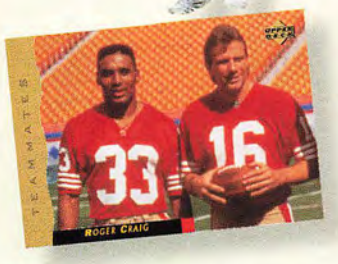


You can't fit his career on a single card. You can barely fit it into a single lifetime.

"Montana's Dominance" *From third-round NFL draft pick to three-time Super Bowl MVP.*



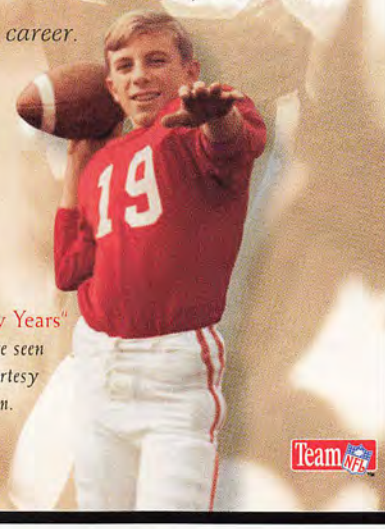
"The New Chief" *Follows Montana's final seasons in Kansas City.*



"Teammates" *Quotes and photos with key teammates. Surprise, everyone says nice things.*

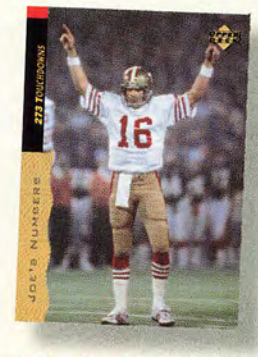
The Joe Montana Career Set by The Upper Deck Company.

Four Super Bowl championships. 31 miracle comebacks. 273 touchdown passes. And we've got it all on 45 cards. It's the official Joe Montana Career Set, capturing some of the best football ever played by one man. Each card sports gold-foil stamping, super-premium card stock, full-bleed designs and our trademark hologram. There's even a limited edition commemorative card saluting one of Joe's Super Bowl victories. All in all, it's quite a collection. But then, it was one helluva career.



"The Early Years" *Never before seen photos, courtesy of Joe's mom.*

Team NFL



"Joe's Numbers" *A statistical look at Joe Cool's playing history.*

"Get Your Set Now" *Because unlike Joe, it won't be making a comeback.*

UPPER D·E·C·K™

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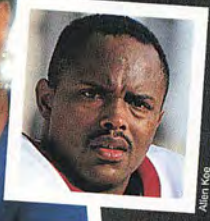
NFL Players Have Heroes, Too

Every month during the season, NFL players get a chance to thank the men and women who inspired them in the classroom by nominating them for the NFL Teacher of the Month Award.

The award was created in 1990 by Commissioner Paul Tagliabue to "encourage our young fans to think of teachers, as well as athletes, as role models." Each of four monthly winners receives a $2,500 grant, and the teacher's school receives a $5,000 NFL scholarship. The NFL Teacher of the Year receives a $5,000 grant and his or her school is given a $10,000 scholarship.

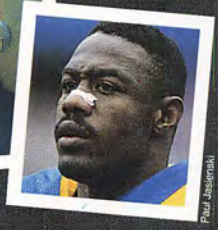
Congratulations to the 1995 winners, as determined by a select panel of educators and civic leaders.

Longin Photography


Allen Kee

◀ TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Teacher: Carolyn Brown
Plaquemine High School
Plaquemine, Louisiana
Player: Brian Mitchell,
Washington Redskins

Longin Photography


Paul Jasienski

◀ SEPTEMBER
Teacher: Barbara Adams
Dobson High School
Mesa, Arizona
Player: Toby Wright,
St. Louis Rams

Allen Kee

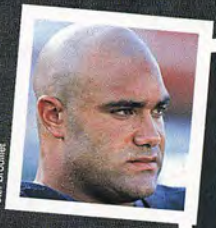
Longin Photography

OCTOBER ▶
Teacher: Betty Payne
Piggott Elementary School
Piggott, Arkansas
Player: Elbert Shelley,
Atlanta Falcons

Longin Photography

Gerald Gallegos

◀ NOVEMBER
Teacher: Richard Powell
Lewiston-Porter Schools
Youngstown, New York
Player: Daryl Johnston,
Dallas Cowboys


Peter Brouillet

Longin Photography

DECEMBER ▶
Teacher: Joanne Vee
Robert A. Black School
Chicago
Player: Chris Zorich,
Chicago Bears

Teacher of the Month

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award Saluting Excellence in Education!

NFL

A Foot Short of Home

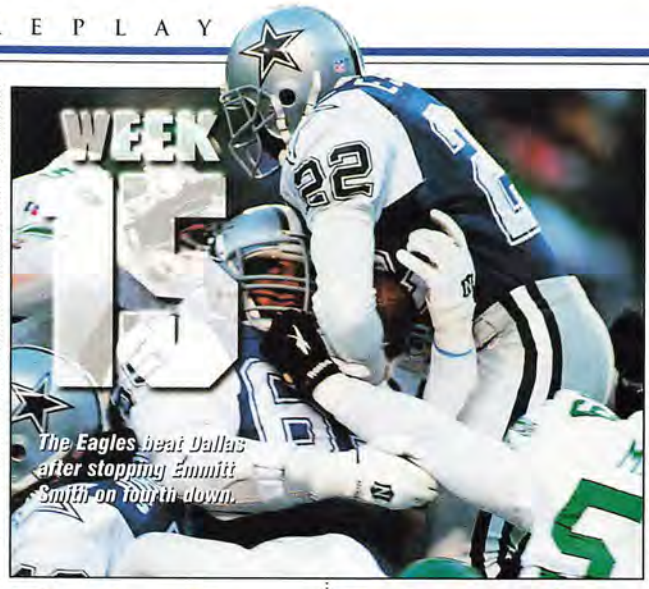
The Cowboys clinched a playoff berth in week 15, but they were not celebrating.

That's because they lost their second consecutive game and gave up their edge for home-field advantage throughout the playoffs when they fell to the Eagles 20-17. Gary Anderson's 42-yard field goal—his fourth three-pointer of the game—won it with 1:26 to go after a fourth-down Dallas gamble failed.

Only two minutes remained in a 17-17 tie when Emmitt Smith—the NFL's leading rusher—twice was sent into the left side of the line on fourth-and-a-foot from the Dallas 29. (The first was negated by the two-minute time out.) Smith was tackled for no gain on both carries.

"I wanted to make a foot so we could control the ball," Dallas coach Switzer said. "We were kicking into the wind, and they would have come down to kick a field goal to win the thing anyway. If we had the wind, I would have kicked the football."

While their defense held Dallas to 196 total yards, the Eagles' Ricky Watters rushed for 112 yards, caught 6 passes for 36, and scored on a 1-yard run. Philadelphia had won eight of its last 10 games.



The Eagles beat Dallas after stopping Emmitt Smith on fourth down.

GREG CRISP

AROUND THE LEAGUE

Morten Andersen

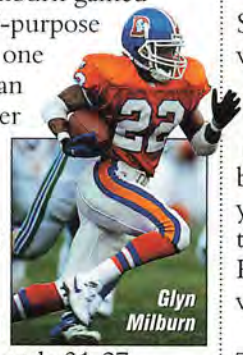
Detroit won its fifth consecutive game as **Barry Sanders** became the tenth player in NFL history to rush for more than 10,000 career yards. He surpassed the barrier in a 24-17 victory over Houston. Teammate **Scott Mitchell** passed for a pair of touchdowns to **Herman Moore** to give Mitchell a club-record 28 this season, breaking the mark set by Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinee **Bobby Layne**...Former Saints kicker **Morten Andersen** booted 4 field goals, including line drives of 51, 55, and 55 yards, in Atlanta's 19-14 conquest of New Orleans. Andersen became the first NFL player to kick 3 field goals of at least 50 yards in the same game...**Andre Coleman** returned the second-half kickoff 92 yards for the go-ahead touchdown, to help the Chargers stop the Cardinals 28-25 for their third consecutive victory. In two NFL seasons (counting playoffs), Coleman had returned 5 kickoffs and 1 punt for touchdowns.

Hurts So Good

Jim Kelly was bothered by a sore passing arm, but it was the Rams who were hurting.

Kelly passed for 4 touchdowns, including 2 to special teams whiz Steve Tasker, and 1 each to Bill Brooks and Thurman Thomas in the Bills' 45-27 rout of St. Louis. Thomas also rushed for 129 yards.

The Best Was Not Enough


Glyn Milburn

Denver running back Glyn Milburn gained more all-purpose yards in one game than any player in NFL history, but the Broncos blew a 20-0 lead and lost to Seattle 31-27.

Milburn set an NFL record by gaining 404 all-purpose yards (131 rushing, 45 receiving, 95 on punt returns, and 133 on kickoff returns), erasing Billy Cannon's 1961 record of 373 yards. His returns set up 17 points.

But Seattle's John Friesz, who replaced injured quarterback Rick Mirer, led his team to 3 touchdowns in the fourth quarter, including the decisive 20-yard touchdown pass to Chris Warren with 49 seconds left. Warren, who rushed for 101 yards, also scored from 24 yards.

Endangered Dolphins Pull One Out

Struggling Miami kept its wild-card playoff hopes alive, staving off the Chiefs 13-6 when cornerback Terrell Buckley broke up Steve Bono's 9-yard, fourth-down pass in the end zone to halt Kansas City's last threat with 1:31 left in the game.

Miami defensive tackle Tim Bowens forced 2 fumbles, recovered 1, and pressured Bono into an interception, setting up a pair of field goals.

JOE POELLOT

SCORES

AFC
Indianapolis 41, **Jacksonville** 31
Miami 13, Kansas City 6
New England 31, N.Y. Jets 28
Pittsburgh 29, **Oakland** 10
Seattle 31, **Denver** 27
NFC
Atlanta 19, New Orleans 14
N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 13
Philadelphia 20, Dallas 17
San Francisco 31, **Carolina** 10
Tampa Bay 13, Green Bay 10 (OT)
INTERCONFERENCE
Buffalo 45, **St. Louis** 27
Cincinnati 16, Chicago 10
Detroit 24, **Houston** 17
Minnesota 27, Cleveland 11
San Diego 28, Arizona 25
(Home teams in bold)

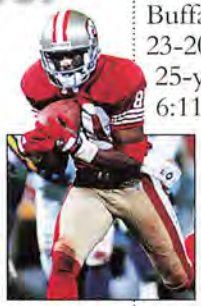
AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	5	0	Pittsburgh	10	4	0	Kansas City	11	3	0	Dallas	10	4	0	Green Bay	9	5	0	San Francisco	10	4	0
Indianapolis	8	6	0	Cincinnati	6	8	0	Oakland	8	6	0	Philadelphia	9	5	0	Detroit	8	6	0	Atlanta	8	6	0
Miami	8	6	0	Houston	5	9	0	Denver	7	7	0	N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	Minnesota	8	6	0	St. Louis	7	7	0
New England	6	8	0	Cleveland	4	10	0	San Diego	7	7	0	Arizona	4	10	0	Chicago	7	7	0	Carolina	6	8	0
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	Jacksonville	3	11	0	Seattle	7	7	0	Washington	4	10	0	Tampa Bay	7	7	0	New Orleans	6	8	0

JIMMY CRIBB

Thurman Thomas helped lead Buffalo to the AFC East title.

DAVID DRAPKIN

It Was All Uphill for 49ers


Jerry Rice

GREG TROTT

Nine games into the season, the Super Bowl-champion 49ers were 5-4 and sliding downhill as if they were on a toboggan.

With one week left in the season, they were 11-4 and riding high.

One day after clinching their eleventh NFC West title in 13 years (when Atlanta lost), the 49ers outscored the Vikings 37-30 on Monday night to win their sixth consecutive game.

San Francisco got a big boost from Jerry Rice, who caught 14 passes from Steve Young for 289 yards (fifth-highest total in NFL history), including 8-, 46-, and 31-yard touchdown receptions. Young passed for 425 yards.

At Buffalo, the Bills also wrapped up a division championship—their sixth AFC East title in the last eight years.

To clinch the title, Buffalo beat the Dolphins 23-20 on Steve Christie's 25-yard field goal with 6:11 left. It was set up by reserve linebacker David White, who intercepted a pass by Dan Marino and returned it 9 yards to the Miami 11.

The Bills' Thurman Thomas rushed for 148 yards and a score and caught an 11-yard touchdown pass from Jim Kelly.

Three other teams—Detroit, Green Bay, and Philadelphia—also wrapped up playoff bids in week 16.

The Lions routed Jacksonville 44-0—the largest winning margin in Detroit history—for their sixth consecutive victory. Wide receivers Herman Moore and Brett Perriman set NFL season records for combined catches (216) and receiving yards (2,934) by teammates.

Green Bay stopped the Saints 34-23 as Brett Favre passed for 4 touchdowns, including 17- and 40-yard strikes to Robert Brooks.

The Eagles rallied from a 17-0 second-quarter deficit to edge the Cardinals 21-20.

Streaking in Pittsburgh

Ernie Mills

Pittsburgh increased its record to 11-4 and extended its winning streak to eight games with its victory over New England in the regular season's penultimate week.

The Steelers were tied with New England 27-27 when Neil O'Donnell and Ernie Mills teamed on a 62-yard touchdown pass with 1:28 left in the game. Nineteen seconds later, cornerback Chris Oldham returned a fumble 27 yards for the clinching score in a 41-27 victory.

Such Sweet Sorrow

Sunday was an emotional day in Cleveland and Houston.

With the Browns and Oilers having announced plans to move to Baltimore and Nashville, respectively, the two teams played what could be their last games in their old cities.

Apparently ending 50 years in Cleveland, the Browns snapped a six-game losing streak by turning back the Bengals 26-10.

"There will be a large piece of my heart here forever," Cleveland defensive end Rob Burnett said. "These are great football fans."

After the game, about a dozen players ran to the "Dawg Pound" and embraced fans there.

The Oilers, who have spent 36 years in Houston, also closed with a victory, 23-6 over the Jets. When the game ended, about 20 Houston players circled the stadium, shaking hands and signing autographs.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

Cowboys by a Foot

The Giants' Rodney Hampton rushed for 187 yards, but Dallas ended a two-game losing streak and squeezed past New York 21-20 on Chris Boniol's 35-yard field goal on the game's last play.

Dallas's Emmitt Smith scored on a 5-yard run to tie John Riggins's NFL single-season record of 24 touchdowns.

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 23, Miami 20
Cleveland 26, Cincinnati 10
Houston 23, N.Y. Jets 6
Kansas City 20, Denver 17
Pittsburgh 41, New England 27
San Diego 27, **Indianapolis** 24
Seattle 44, Oakland 10
NFC
Carolina 21, Atlanta 17
Chicago 31, Tampa Bay 10
Dallas 21, N.Y. Giants 20
Green Bay 34, **New Orleans** 23
Philadelphia 21, Arizona 20
San Francisco 37, Minnesota 30
Washington 35, **St. Louis** 23
INTERCONFERENCE
Detroit 44, Jacksonville 0
(Home teams in bold)

AFC East	W	L	T	AFC Central	W	L	T	AFC West	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T	NFC Central	W	L	T	NFC West	W	L	T
Buffalo	10	5	0	Pittsburgh	11	4	0	Kansas City	12	3	0	Dallas	11	4	0	Green Bay	10	5	0	San Francisco	11	4	0
Indianapolis	8	7	0	Cincinnati	6	9	0	Oakland	8	7	0	Philadelphia	10	5	0	Detroit	9	6	0	Atlanta	8	7	0
Miami	8	7	0	Houston	6	9	0	San Diego	8	7	0	N.Y. Giants	5	10	0	Chicago	8	7	0	Carolina	7	8	0
New England	6	9	0	Cleveland	5	10	0	Seattle	8	7	0	Washington	5	10	0	Minnesota	8	7	0	St. Louis	7	8	0
N.Y. Jets	3	12	0	Jacksonville	3	12	0	Denver	7	8	0	Arizona	4	11	0	Tampa Bay	7	8	0	New Orleans	6	9	0

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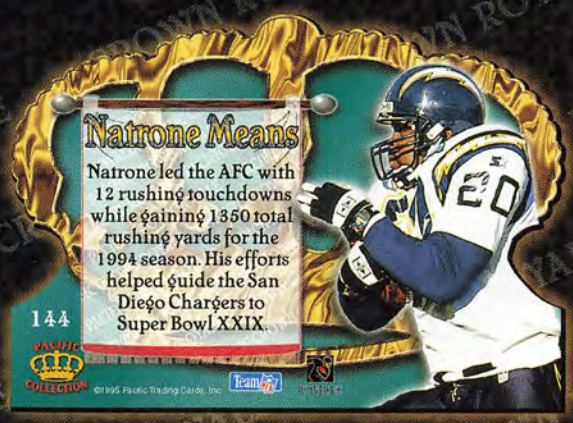
Natrone Means
Natrone led the AFC with 12 rushing touchdowns while gaining 1350 total rushing yards for the 1994 season. His efforts helped guide the San Diego Chargers to Super Bowl XXIX.
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Atlanta's Surprise Party

The regular season was over, and Atlanta linebacker Jessie Tuggle was elated.

"Nobody outside this locker room thought we could beat the 49ers," Tuggle said. "We showed people we deserve to be in the playoffs."

He was right on both counts.

The 49ers, who brought a six-game winning streak to Atlanta, had swamped the Falcons 41-10 in September. San Francisco needed another victory to clinch home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

But the Falcons, who twice trailed by 11 points, rallied behind reserve quarterback Bobby Hebert to win 28-27 and grab the last NFC playoff berth.

Hebert replaced Jeff George (sprained neck) late in the first half and threw 2 touchdown passes to Terance Mathis, including the 37-yard play that won it with 1:45 left.

In defeat, San Francisco's Jerry Rice caught 12 passes for 153 yards to set an NFL record for most receiving yards in a season (1,848), surpassing Charley Hennigan's 34-year-old record (1,746 in a 14-game season). Rice also set an NFL record for career receptions (942), passing the still-active Art Monk, who has 940.

Detroit's Herman Moore finished the season with an NFL-record 123 receptions.

STEVEN MURPHY

Having a (Snow) Ball

Four teams earned playoff bids on the final weekend. Besides Atlanta, three from the AFC—San Diego, Miami, and Indianapolis—joined the party.

The defending AFC-champion Chargers had the toughest road. They lost starting quarterback Stan Humphries (sprained neck and concussion) in the first quarter, fell behind the Giants 17-3 at halftime, and had to overcome some unruly fans who pelted them with ice-hardened snowballs in a 27-17 victory.

Shaun Gayle

While backup quarterback Gale Gilbert played efficiently, safety Shaun Gayle's 99-yard interception return for a touchdown gave the Chargers a decisive 24-17 lead with 5:44 left in the game. Linebacker Junior Seau set up Gayle's interception when he hit New York quarterback Dave Brown's arm as he was throwing.

Home Sweet Home

The Chiefs and Cowboys both earned home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Kansas City throttled Seattle 26-3 to finish with the NFL's best record (13-3), while going 8-0 at home and 8-0 in the AFC West. Rookie Tamarick Vanover returned the opening kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown and caught a 9-yard scoring pass from Steve Bono.

Dallas, which won its fourth consecutive NFC East title, routed Arizona 37-13. The Cowboys' Kevin Williams had 9 catches for 203 yards, including a pair of touchdown passes from Troy Aikman.

Emmitt Smith scored on a 3-yard run, giving him an NFL-record 25 touchdowns this season. With 1,773 yards, Smith also won his fourth NFL rushing title in five years.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

The playoff-bound Packers clinched the NFC Central (their first division title since 1972) by holding off Pittsburgh 24-19, snapping the Steelers' eight-game winning streak. **Brett Favre** passed for 2 touchdowns to finish with an NFL-leading 38, the third-highest total in league history. Pittsburgh's **Yancey Thigpen** dropped a game-winning 6-yard touchdown pass with 11 seconds left...Playoff-bound Detroit finished with a seven-game winning streak after routing Tampa Bay 37-10. **Herman Moore** caught 10 passes to set an NFL single-season record with 123 receptions... Playoff-bound Buffalo rested several starters, while many others played only briefly in a 28-17 loss to Houston. But **Thurman Thomas** rushed 3 times for 20 yards to finish with 1,005, making him the third player in NFL history to run for 1,000 yards in seven successive seasons

SCORES

AFC
Denver 31, **Oakland** 28
Houston 28, **Buffalo** 17
Indianapolis 10, New England 7
Jacksonville 24, Cleveland 21
Kansas City 26, Seattle 3
NFC
Atlanta 28, San Francisco 27
Chicago 20, Philadelphia 14
Dallas 37, Arizona 13
Detroit 37, **Tampa Bay** 10
Washington 20, Carolina 17
INTERCONFERENCE
Cincinnati 27, Minnesota 24
Green Bay 24, Pittsburgh 19
Miami 41, **St. Louis** 22
New Orleans 12, **N.Y. Jets** 0
San Diego 27, **N.Y. Giants** 17
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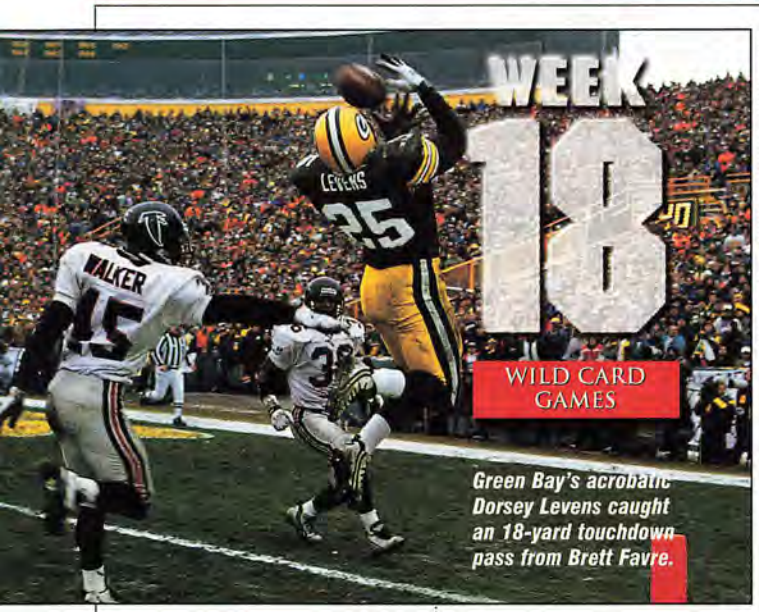
Indianapolis	9	7	0	Cincinnati	7	9	0	San Diego	9	7	0	Philadelphia	10	6	0	Detroit	10	6	0	Atlanta	9	7	0
Miami	9	7	0	Houston	7	9	0	Denver	8	8	0	Washington	6	10	0	Chicago	9	7	0	Carolina	7	9	0
New England	6	10	0	Cleveland	5	11	0	Oakland	8	8	0	N.Y. Giants	5	11	0	Minnesota	8	8	0	New Orleans	7	9	0
N.Y. Jets	3	13	0	Jacksonville	4	12	0	Seattle	8	8	0	Arizona	4	12	0	Tampa Bay	7	9	0	St. Louis	7	9	0

JIM TURNER



Green Bay's acrobatic Dorsey Levens caught an 18-yard touchdown pass from Brett Favre.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP

An Amazing Metamorphosis

Even Zack Crockett found it hard to believe.

"God blessed me today," Crockett said. "It was amazing."

It sure was.

The Colts' rookie fullback, who carried the ball exactly one time during the regular season, rushed for 147 yards (a Colts' postseason record) on 13 carries and scored on 33- and 66-yard runs as his team surprised defending AFC champion San Diego 35-20.

It was the Colts' first playoff victory since 1971 and ended an 11-game losing streak by road teams in AFC wild-card games. It also snapped San Diego's five-game winning streak.

Injuries gave Crockett his chance. Starting fullback Roosevelt Potts suffered a season-ending knee injury two weeks earlier, and Pro Bowl running back Marshall Faulk left after one play when he aggravated his injured knee.

Crockett ran, and Jim Harbaugh threw touchdown passes to Ken Dilger and Sean Dawkins and scored on a 3-yard run. Safety Jason Belser had 2 of the Colts' 4 interceptions off Stan Humphries.

Zack Crockett

JERRY GALLEGOS

If It's the Playoffs, It Must Be Buffalo

Nothing is certain but death, taxes, and, apparently, Buffalo in the AFC playoffs.

The Bills made it 10 playoff victories in a row by jumping to a 27-0 lead after three quarters and throttling Miami 37-22. It also was Buffalo's ninth playoff victory in nine games at Rich Stadium.

On the way to a 536-yard day, Buffalo rushed for an AFC-playoff-record 341 yards, including 158 by Thurman Thomas, who scored once.

"He's a great back, a great competitor—with a heart as big as Texas," Buffalo coach Marv Levy said. When Thomas rested, rookie Darick Holmes ran for 87 yards and scored on a 21-yard run.

Miami's Dan Marino passed for 422 yards and 2 touchdowns, but also threw 3 interceptions.

A Namath-Like Prediction

Mike Holmgren was not only happy, he was confident.

"We're going to win it all," the Packers' coach said boldly, after his team opened the playoffs with an impressive 37-20 victory over Atlanta.

Darick Holmes

If they could play all their games at home, they might just do that. By winning, the Packers ran their all-time home playoff record to 9-0, including 7-0 at Lambeau Field.

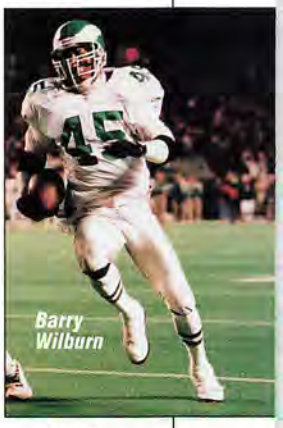
Brett Favre, the NFC's leading passer during the season, stayed hot by throwing for 3 touchdowns—to Robert Brooks, Mark Chmura, and Dorsey Levens. Edgar Bennett rushed for a Packers' playoff-record 108 yards and a touchdown, and rookie Antonio Freeman returned a punt 76 yards for a score.

Atlanta took a 7-0 lead on Jeff George's rollout 65-yard touchdown pass to Eric Metcalf, but the Packers scored 27 of the next 30 points for a 27-10 halftime lead.

L.C. LAMBRECHT

Playing the Role

Ray Rhodes figured his team would play well.


Barry Wilburn

JOE PATRONITE

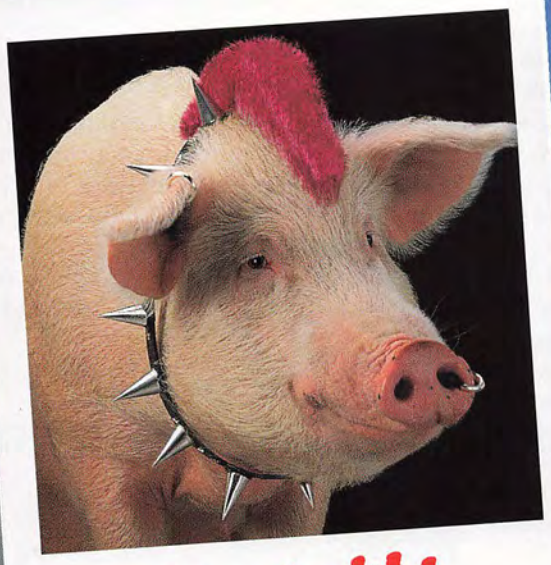
"All we heard all week was how potent Detroit had been, and how we didn't have a chance," the Eagles' coach said. "We were underdogs, and I liked that. I've always liked that."

He also liked the result. In the most shocking game of the weekend, Philadelphia broke a 7-7 first-quarter tie with 31 second-quarter points, took a 51-7 third-quarter lead, and went on to win 58-37. (The total score of 95 points set an NFL postseason record.) The Lions entered the game with a seven-game winning streak.

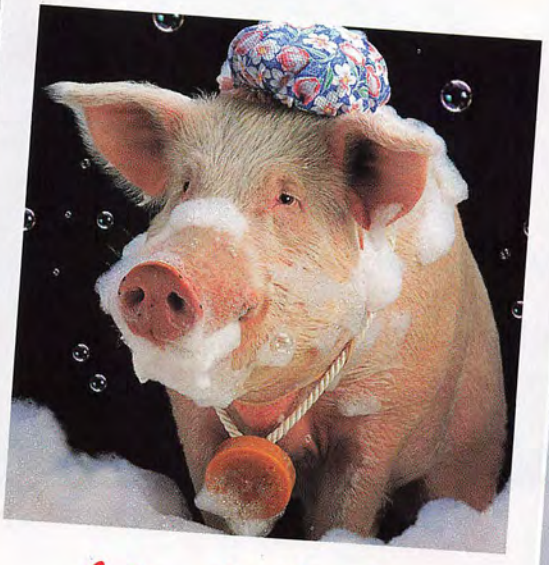
The Eagles scored 34 points after 7 Detroit turnovers, with safety Barry Wilburn and linebacker William Thomas returning interceptions 24 and 30 yards for touchdowns. Detroit suffered 6 interceptions, including 4 by starting quarterback Scott Mitchell.

The Eagles' Rodney Peete passed for 3 touchdowns, including a 43-yard Hail-Mary toss to Rob Carpenter on the last play of the first half.

PAUL SPINELLI/NFLP



Hog Wild.



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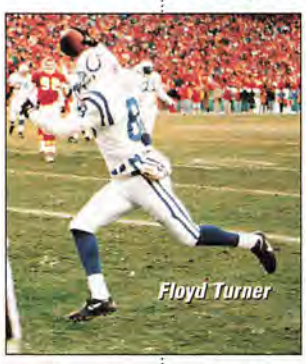
Adam Walker's fumble (forced by Wayne Simmons) led to a Green Bay touchdown.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Dead-End Kids Still Alive

Colts coach Ted Marchibroda was enjoying himself.

"Nobody picks us," he said. "We're the dead-end kids, so to speak. But [the players] are doing a heck of a job, and it's no fluke."


Floyd Turner

JOE ROBBINS

If nothing else, it was a surprise. One week after winning at San Diego, the Colts went to Kansas City and stunned the Chiefs, who had the NFL's best regular-season record (13-3, including 8-0 at home), 10-7. The victory sent the Colts to the AFC title game for the first time since 1971.

Kansas City's last chance ended when Lin Elliott—kicking off a frozen field—missed a 42-yard field goal with 37 seconds remaining. Elliot missed 35- and 39-yard kicks earlier in the game.

Once again, the Colts had to play without Pro Bowl running back Marshall Faulk, who had knee surgery during the week. But they rallied from a 7-0 deficit to tie the score on Jim Harbaugh's 5-yard touchdown pass to Floyd Turner, and went ahead on Cary Blanchard's 30-yard, third-quarter field goal.

Indianapolis intercepted 3 of Steve Bono's passes, including 1 by cornerback Ashley Ambrose that led to the winning kick.

More Work in Steel Town

For the second consecutive year, the Steelers were in the AFC Championship Game. But they weren't celebrating.

"This is not a happy-go-lucky, party atmosphere," cornerback Carnell Lake (1 interception, 1 fumble recovery) said. "Our motto is, 'We have unfinished business.'"

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers jumped to a 20-0 second-quarter lead over Buffalo on the way to a 40-21 victory. It snapped the Bills' 10-game winning streak in the AFC playoffs.

Although they had several starters playing with injuries and defensive star Bruce Smith out with the flu, the Bills sliced Pittsburgh's lead to 26-21 early in the fourth quarter. But Steelers quarterback Neil O'Donnell responded by leading a 76-yard touchdown drive that ended with Byron (Bam) Morris's 13-yard run for a 33-21 lead. Morris, who rushed for 106 yards, scored again with 1:58 left.

Bam Morris

JOE PATRONITE

Pittsburgh's Norm Johnson kicked 4 field goals, tying a club playoff record.

Champions Sent Packing

For the first time since 1991, the 49ers would not be in the NFC Championship Game.

Green Bay took a 21-0 second-quarter lead and went on to knock out the defending Super Bowl champions 27-17 in San Francisco. It put the Packers in the NFC Championship Game for the first time since 1967.

"The way Brett Favre is playing has given all of us confidence that, hey, we can beat anybody right now," defensive end Reggie White said.

Favre completed 21 of 28 passes for 299 yards and 2 touchdowns against the 49ers. After cornerback Craig Newsome returned a fumble (forced by linebacker Wayne Simmons) 31 yards for a touchdown on San Francisco's first offensive play, Favre threw 3- and 13-yard scoring passes to tight ends Keith Jackson and Mark Chmura.

Meanwhile, Green Bay's defense sacked Steve Young 3 times, intercepted him twice, and recovered his fumble. Young passed for 328 yards, and had an NFL-playoff-record 65 attempts.

Cowboys Reach the 'Fun Zone'

In December, the Cowboys lost to the Eagles on a field goal in the last two minutes. They were ready for the rematch.

After Eagles quarterback Rodney Peete was sidelined with a concussion at the end of the first quarter, Dallas broke a 3-3 tie with 27 unanswered points and went on to win 30-11.

"It's been a while since we've had this much fun," Cowboys guard Nate Newton said.

Dallas cornerback Deion Sanders scored the game's first touchdown on a 21-yard reverse on which he started left, but wound up scoring around right end. He also set up another touchdown with an interception.

Deion Sanders

JOE PATRONITE

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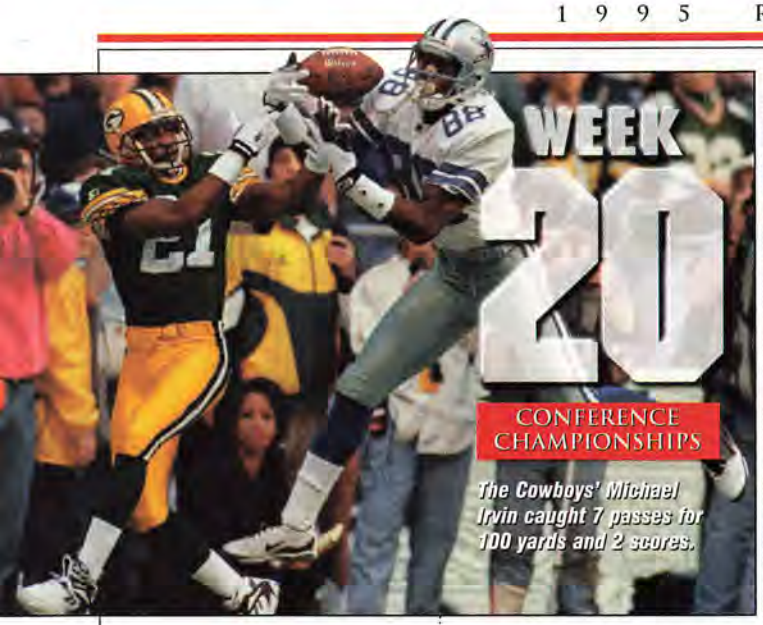


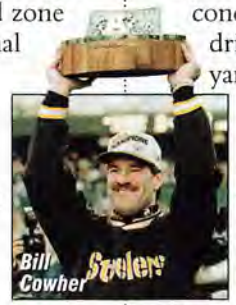
The Cowboys' Michael Irvin caught 7 passes for 100 yards and 2 scores.

ALLSPORT

Great Escape in Pittsburgh

It was one of the most dramatic endings in AFC Championship Game history. With 61,062 fans on their feet, Colts' quarterback Jim Harbaugh threw a 29-yard Hail Mary pass into a crowd in the right corner of the end zone on the game's final play.

The Steelers, who lost the AFC title game late in the fourth quarter a year ago, were clinging to a 20-16 lead.


Bill Cowher

ALLSPORT

"The minute the ball got in the end zone, I knew there was a chance of [us] losing it [again]," Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher said.

They almost did.

After being batted around, the ball landed on the stomach of Colts' wide receiver Aaron Bailey, who was lying on his back in the end zone. But Bailey couldn't control it. The ball rolled onto the ground and the Steelers narrowly avoided another crushing championship defeat.

The Steelers rushed out to hug each other. They were on their way to the Super Bowl for the first time since the 1979 season (and for the fifth time overall).

Pittsburgh had scored the winning touchdown only moments before, as Byron (Bam) Morris concluded a 67-yard drive by fighting 1 yard for a score with 1:34 left.

The Steelers trailed 16-13 when Morris and his team got the ball with 3:03 left. Neil O'Donnell, who led the eight-play drive, set up the score with a 37-yard pass to Ernie Mills, whose sensational leaping catch put the ball on the Colts' 1.

Rookie Kordell Stewart caught a 5-yard pass from O'Donnell for Pittsburgh's first touchdown and a 10-6 halftime lead.

Kordell Stewart

ALLSPORT

Indianapolis was trying to become only the fifth wild-card team to earn a Super Bowl bid, and only the second to do it with three successive victories on the road.

The poised Harbaugh led his team 55 yards on the final drive, despite suffering a dislocated middle finger on his passing hand on the march. His 47-yard touchdown pass to Floyd Turner with 8:46 left, coupled with 3 field goals by Cary Blanchard, gave the Colts their 16-13 lead.

Cowboys Prevail

The 1966 and 1967 NFL title games were two of the best contests of that decade. In each game, the veteran Packers defeated the young Cowboys–thanks to some last-minute heroics.

The 1995 NFC Championship Game was a replay of those confrontations, only this time it was the polished Cowboys teaching the up-and-coming Packers a lesson in a 38-27 victory.

"We keep coming down here and getting lessons," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said after Green Bay lost its seventh consecutive game to Dallas. "I'm tired of lessons. Even with the difference in the time of possession [Dallas controlled the ball for 38 minutes 56 seconds], I felt the game's keys were the two turnovers."

Dallas scored 14 points off those 2 turnovers. In the first quarter, Cowboys defensive end Leon Lett intercepted a screen pass from Brett Favre at the Packers' 13. That play set up Troy Aikman's second touchdown pass to Michael Irvin, a 4-yard toss that gave Dallas a 14-3 lead.

In the fourth quarter, with Dallas leading 31-27, Larry Brown snuffed out a Green Bay drive, picking off Favre's pass along the sideline and returning it 28 yards to the Cowboys' 48.

Michael Irvin

ALLSPORT

Irvin then outfought Packers cornerback Doug Evans for a 36-yard reception, and Emmitt Smith ran untouched for a 16-yard score that gave Dallas a 38-27 lead with 9:28 remaining.

It was a sweet victory for Cowboys coach Barry Switzer, who had endured withering criticism during the team's late-season slump. Switzer's charges made few mistakes against Green Bay to advance to their third Super Bowl in four seasons and Dallas's record eighth Super Bowl appearance overall.

The Cowboys' mammoth offensive line led the way to Tempe, clearing huge holes for Smith (150 yards and 3 touchdowns on 35 carries) and giving Aikman (21 completions in 33 attempts for 255 yards and 2 touchdowns) plenty of time to throw.

Favre, the NFL's consensus most valuable player this season, completed 21 of 39 passes (16 of 24 in the second half) for 307 yards and 3 touchdowns, 2 to Robert Brooks.

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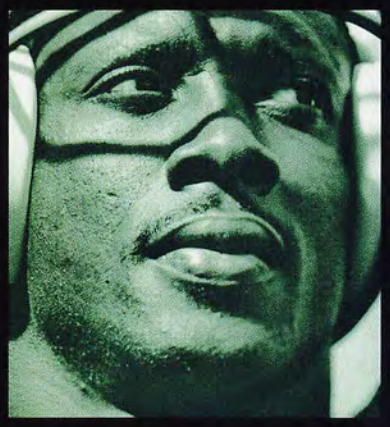

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Tim Brown - Oakland

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HARDER

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Lg	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Jim Harbaugh, Indianapolis	314	200	63.7	2,575	8.20	17	5.4	52	5	1.6	100.7
Dan Marino, Miami	482	309	64.1	3,668	7.61	24	5.0	67t	15	3.1	90.8
Vinny Testaverde, Cleveland	392	241	61.5	2,883	7.35	17	4.3	70t	10	2.6	87.8
Chris Chandler, Houston	356	225	63.2	2,460	6.91	17	4.8	76t	10	2.8	87.8
Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh	416	246	59.1	2,970	7.14	17	4.1	71t	7	1.7	87.7
John Elway, Denver	542	316	58.3	3,970	7.32	26	4.8	62t	14	2.6	86.4
Mark Brunell, Jacksonville	346	201	58.1	2,168	6.27	15	4.3	45	7	2.0	82.6
Jeff Hostetler, Oakland	286	172	60.1	1,998	6.99	12	4.2	80t	9	3.1	82.2
Jeff Blake, Cincinnati	567	326	57.5	3,822	6.74	28	4.9	88t	17	3.0	82.1
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	458	255	55.7	3,130	6.83	22	4.8	77t	13	2.8	81.1

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Lg	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Brett Favre, Green Bay	570	357	63.0	4,413	7.74	38	6.7	99t	13	2.3	99.5
Troy Aikman, Dallas	432	280	64.8	3,304	7.65	16	3.7	50	7	1.6	93.6
Erik Kramer, Chicago	522	315	60.3	3,838	7.35	29	5.6	76t	10	1.9	93.5
Steve Young, San Francisco	447	299	66.9	3,200	7.16	20	4.5	57	11	2.5	92.3
Scott Mitchell, Detroit	583	346	59.3	4,338	7.44	32	5.5	91t	12	2.1	92.3
Warren Moon, Minnesota	606	377	62.2	4,228	6.98	33	5.4	85t	14	2.3	91.5
Jeff George, Atlanta	557	336	60.3	4,143	7.44	24	4.3	62t	11	2.0	89.5
Jim Everett, New Orleans	567	345	60.8	3,970	7.00	26	4.6	70t	14	2.5	87.0
Chris Miller, St. Louis	405	232	57.3	2,623	6.48	18	4.4	72	15	3.7	76.2
Dave Brown, N. Y. Giants	456	254	55.7	2,814	6.17	11	2.4	57t	10	2.2	73.1

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Curtis Martin, New England	368	1,487	4.0	49	14
Chris Warren, Seattle	310	1,346	4.3	52	15
Terrell Davis, Denver	237	1,117	4.7	60t	7
Harvey Williams, Oakland	255	1,114	4.4	60	9
Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis	289	1,078	3.7	40	11
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	267	1,005	3.8	49	6
Rodney Thomas, Houston	251	947	3.8	74t	5
Marcus Allen, Kansas City	207	890	4.3	38	5
Bernie Parmalee, Miami	236	878	3.7	40	9
Erric Pegram, Pittsburgh	213	813	3.8	38	5

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	377	1,773	4.7	60t	25
Barry Sanders, Detroit	314	1,500	4.8	75t	11
Terry Allen, Washington	338	1,309	3.9	28	10
Ricky Watters, Philadelphia	337	1,273	3.8	57	11
Errict Rhett, Tampa Bay	332	1,207	3.6	21	11
Rodney Hampton, N. Y. Giants	306	1,182	3.9	32	10
Craig Heyward, Atlanta	236	1,083	4.6	31	6
Rashaan Salaam, Chicago	296	1,074	3.6	42	10
Garrison Hearst, Arizona	284	1,070	3.8	38	1
Edgar Bennett, Green Bay	316	1,067	3.4	23	3

AFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Carl Pickens, Cincinnati	17	0	17	0	102
Chris Warren, Seattle	16	15	1	0	96
Curtis Martin, New England	15	14	1	0	92
Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis	14	11	3	0	84
Anthony Miller, Denver	14	0	14	0	84
Bill Brooks, Buffalo	11	0	11	0	66
Tim Brown, Oakland	10	0	10	0	60
Bernie Parmalee, Miami	10	9	1	0	60
5 tied with	9				54

NFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	25	25	0	0	150
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	17	1	15	1	104
Cris Carter, Minnesota	17	0	17	0	102
Herman Moore, Detroit	14	0	14	0	84
Isaac Bruce, St. Louis	13	0	13	0	80
Derek Loville, San Francisco	13	10	3	0	78
Robert Brooks, Green Bay	13	0	13	0	78
Curtis Conway, Chicago	12	0	12	0	72
Barry Sanders, Detroit	12	11	1	0	72
Ricky Watters, Philadelphia	12	11	1	0	72

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg	Pts
Norm Johnson, Pittsburgh	39/39	34/41	50	141
Jason Elam, Denver	39/39	31/38	56	132
Steve Christie, Buffalo	33/35	31/40	51	126
Doug Pelfrey, Cincinnati	34/34	29/36	51	121
Pete Stoyanovich, Miami	37/37	27/34	51	118
Al Del Greco, Houston	33/33	27/31	53	114
Matt Stover, Cleveland	26/26	29/33	47	113
Todd Peterson, Seattle	40/40	23/28	49	109
Lin Elliott, Kansas City	34/37	24/30	49	106
Matt Bahr, New England	27/27	23/33	55	96

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg	Pts
Jason Hanson, Detroit	48/48	28/34	56	132
Chris Boniol, Dallas	46/48	27/28	45	127
Morten Andersen, Atlanta	29/30	31/37	59	122
Fuad Reveiz, Minnesota	44/44	26/36	51	122
Kevin Butler, Chicago	45/45	23/31	47	114
Eddie Murray, Washington	33/33	27/36	52	114
Greg Davis, Arizona	19/19	30/39	55	109
John Kasay, Carolina	27/28	26/33	52	105
Gary Anderson, Philadelphia	32/33	22/30	43	98
Chris Jacke, Green Bay	43/43	17/23	51	94

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Carl Pickens, Cincinnati	99	1,234	12.5	68t	17
Tony Martin, San Diego	90	1,224	13.6	51t	6
Tim Brown, Oakland	89	1,342	15.1	80t	10
Yancey Thigpen, Pittsburgh	85	1,307	15.4	43	5
Ben Coates, New England	84	915	10.9	35	6
Brian Blades, Seattle	77	1,001	13.0	49	4
Adrian Murrell, N. Y. Jets	71	465	6.5	43	2
Joey Galloway, Seattle	67	1,039	15.5	59t	7
Vincent Brisby, New England	66	974	14.8	72	3
Wayne Chrebet, N. Y. Jets	66	726	11.0	32	4
Terry Kirby, Miami	66	618	9.4	46	3

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Herman Moore, Detroit	123	1,686	13.7	69t	14
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	122	1,848	15.1	81t	15
Cris Carter, Minnesota	122	1,371	11.2	60t	17
Isaac Bruce, St. Louis	119	1,781	15.0	72	13
Michael Irvin, Dallas	111	1,603	14.4	50	10
Brett Perriman, Detroit	108	1,488	13.8	91t	9
Eric Metcalf, Atlanta	104	1,189	11.4	62t	8
Robert Brooks, Green Bay	102	1,497	14.7	99t	13
Larry Centers, Arizona	101	962	9.5	32	2
Derek Loville, San Francisco	87	662	7.6	31	3

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Rick Tuten, Seattle	83	3,735	73	45.0
Darren Bennett, San Diego	72	3,221	66	44.7
Louie Aguiar, Kansas City	91	3,990	65	43.8
Bryan Barker, Jacksonville	82	3,591	63	43.8
Tom Tupa, Cleveland	65	2,831	64	43.6
John Kidd, Miami	57	2,433	56	42.7
Chris Gardocki, Indianapolis	63	2,681	69	42.6
Tom Rouen, Denver	52	2,192	61	42.2
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	68	2,681	61	42.1
Brian Hansen, N. Y. Jets	99	4,090	67	41.3

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Sean Landeta, St. Louis Rams	83	3,679	63	44.3
Jeff Feagles, Arizona	72	3,150	60	43.8
Tom Hutton, Philadelphia	85	3,682	63	43.3
Reggie Roby, Tampa Bay	77	3,296	61	42.8
Mike Horan, N. Y. Giants	72	3,063	60	42.5
Matt Turk, Washington	74	3,140	60	42.4
Craig Hentrich, Green Bay	65	2,740	61	42.2
Mark Royals, Detroit	57	2,393	69	42.0
Dan Stryzinski, Atlanta	67	2,759	64	41.2
Tommy Barnhardt, Carolina	95	3,906	54	41.1

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Andre Coleman, San Diego	28	326	11.6	88t	1
Jeff Burris, Buffalo	20	229	11.5	40	0
Glyn Milburn, Denver	31	354	11.4	44	0
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	51	540	10.6	86t	1
Desmond Howard, Jacksonville	24	246	10.3	40	0
Tim Brown, Oakland	36	364	10.1	38	0
Mel Gray, Houston	30	303	10.1	20	0
Joey Galloway, Seattle	36	360	10.0	89t	1
Andre Hastings, Pittsburgh	48	474	9.9	72t	1
Dave Meggett, New England	45	383	8.5	23	0

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
David Palmer, Minnesota	26	342	13.2	74t	1
Brian Mitchell, Washington	25	315	12.6	59t	1
Eric Guliford, Carolina	43	475	11.0	62t	1
Dexter Carter, N. Y. Jets-S. F.	30	309	10.3	78t	1
Charles Jordan, Green Bay	21	213	10.1	18	0
Bobby Joe Edmonds, Tampa Bay	29	293	10.1	45	0
Eric Metcalf, Atlanta	39	383	9.8	66t	1
Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans	28	262	9.4	74	0
Jeff Graham, Chicago	23	183	8.0	39	0
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay	37	292	7.9	26	0

AFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Glyn Milburn, Denver	47	1,269	27.0	86	0
Rob Carpenter, N. Y. Jets	21	553	26.3	58	0
Napoleon Kaufman, Oakland	22	572	26.0	84t	1
Tamarick Vanover, Kansas City	43	1,095	25.5	99t	2
Dave Meggett, New England	38	964	25.4	62	0
Steve Broussard, Seattle	43	1,064	24.7	70	0
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	23	564	24.5	47	0
Ernie Mills, Pittsburgh	54	1,306	24.2	57	0
Aaron Bailey, Indianapolis	21	495	23.6	95t	1
Andre Coleman, San Diego	62	1,411	22.8	92t	2

NFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Brian Mitchell, Washington	55	1,408	25.6	59	0
Qadry Ismail, Minnesota	42	1,037	24.7	71	0
Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans	66	1,617	24.5	83	0
J.T. Thomas, St. Louis	32	752	23.5	46	0
Antonio Freeman, Green Bay	24	556	23.2	45	0
Kevin Williams, Dallas	49	1,108	22.6	43	0
Jamal Anderson, Atlanta	24	541	22.5	35	0
Dexter Carter, N. Y. Jets-S. F.	56	1,227	21.9	57	0
Ryan Terry, Arizona	37	808	21.8	53	0
Nate Lewis, Chicago	42	904	21.5	52	0

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Lg	TD
Willie Williams, Pittsburgh	7	122	63t	1
Darryll Lewis, Houston	6	145	98t	1
Otis Smith, N. Y. Jets	6	101	49t	1
Kurt Schulz, Buffalo	6	48	32t	1
Terry McDaniel, Oakland	6	46	42t	1
Troy Vincent, Miami	5	95	69t	1
Stevon Moore, Cleveland	5	55	28	0
Robert Blackmon, Seattle	5	46	21	0
Rodney Harrison, San Diego	5	22	17	0
6 tied with	4			

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Lg	TD
Orlando Thomas, Minnesota	9	108	45t	1
Willie Clay, Detroit	8	173	39	0
William Thomas, Philadelphia	7	104	37t	1
Larry Brown, Dallas	6	124	65t	2
Aeneas Williams, Arizona	6	86	48t	2
Toby Wright, St. Louis	6	79	27	0
Brett Maxie, Carolina	6	59	49	0
Corey Raymond, Detroit	6	44	18	0
Brock Marion, Dallas	6	40	32t	1
7 tied with	5			

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American Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Carl Pickens, *Cincinnati*
*Tim Brown, *Oakland*
Yancey Thigpen, *Pittsburgh*
Anthony Miller, *Denver*

Tackles
*Richmond Webb, *Miami*
*Bruce Armstrong, *New England*
Gary Zimmerman, *Denver*

Guards
*Bruce Matthews, *Houston*
*Keith Sims, *Miami*
Steve Wisniewski, *Oakland*

Centers
*Dermontti Dawson, *Pittsburgh*
Mark Stepnoski, *Houston*

Tight Ends
*Ben Coates, *New England*
Shannon Sharpe, *Denver*

Quarterbacks
*Dan Marino, *Miami*
Jeff Blake, *Cincinnati*
Jim Harbaugh, *Indianapolis*

Running Backs
*Chris Warren, *Seattle*
Marshall Faulk, *Indianapolis*
Curtis Martin, *New England*

Fullback
*Kimble Anders, *Kansas City*

DEFENSE

Ends
*Bruce Smith, *Buffalo*
*Neil Smith, *Kansas City*
Leslie O'Neal, *San Diego*

Defensive Linemen
*Chester McGlockton, *Oakland*
*Dan Saleaumua, *Kansas City*
Cortez Kennedy, *Seattle*

Outside Linebackers
*Bryce Paup, *Buffalo*
*Greg Lloyd, *Pittsburgh*
Derrick Thomas, *Kansas City*

Inside Linebackers
*Junior Seau, *San Diego*
Bryan Cox, *Miami*

Cornerbacks
*Dale Carter, *Kansas City*
*Terry McDaniel, *Oakland*
Darryll Lewis, *Houston*

Strong Safeties
*Carnell Lake, *Pittsburgh*
Blaine Bishop, *Houston*

Free Safety
*Steve Atwater, *Denver*

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Darren Bennett, *San Diego*

Kicker
Jason Elam, *Denver*

Kick Returner
Glyn Milburn, *Denver*

Special Teamer
Steve Tasker, *Buffalo*

National Football Conference

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Jerry Rice, *San Francisco*
*Herman Moore, *Detroit*
Michael Irvin, *Dallas*
Cris Carter, *Minnesota*

Tackles
*William Roaf, *New Orleans*
*Lomas Brown, *Detroit*
Mark Tuinei, *Dallas*

Guards
*Nate Newton, *Dallas*
*Randall McDaniel, *Minnesota*
Larry Allen, *Dallas*

Centers
*Kevin Glover, *Detroit*
#Ray Donaldson, *Dallas*
Bart Oates, *San Francisco*

Tight Ends
*Jay Novacek, *Dallas*
Mark Chmura, *Green Bay*

Quarterbacks
*Brett Favre, *Green Bay*
Troy Aikman, *Dallas*
Steve Young, *San Francisco*

Running Backs
*Emmitt Smith, *Dallas*
Barry Sanders, *Detroit*
Ricky Watters, *Philadelphia*

Fullback
*Larry Centers, *Arizona*

DEFENSE

Ends
*Reggie White, *Green Bay*
*Charles Haley, *Dallas*
William Fuller, *Philadelphia*

Defensive Linemen
*John Randle, *Minnesota*
*Eric Swann, *Arizona*
Dana Stubblefield, *San Francisco*

Outside Linebackers
*Ken Harvey, *Washington*
*Lee Woodall, *San Francisco*
William Thomas, *Philadelphia*

Inside Linebackers
*Jessie Tuggle, *Atlanta*
Ken Norton, *San Francisco*

Cornerbacks
*Aeneas Williams, *Arizona*
*Eric Davis, *San Francisco*
Eric Allen, *New Orleans*

Strong Safeties
*Darren Woodson, *Dallas*
Tim McDonald, *San Francisco*

Free Safety
*Merton Hanks, *San Francisco*

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Jeff Feagles, *Arizona*

Kicker
Morten Andersen, *Atlanta*

Kick Returner
Brian Mitchell, *Washington*

Special Teamer
Elbert Shelley, *Atlanta*

**denotes starter*
#Selected but not playing because of injury–replaced by Bart Oates (San Francisco)

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THE ISLANDS of HAWAI'I

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1995 NFC Results and Standings

Arizona Cardinals

Sept. 3	at Washington	7-27
Sept. 10	PHILADELPHIA	19-31
Sept. 17	at Detroit	20-17
Sept. 24	at Dallas	20-34
Oct. 1	KANSAS CITY	3-24
Oct. 8	at New York Giants*	21-27
Oct. 15	WASHINGTON	24-20
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	SEATTLE*	20-14
Nov. 5	at Denver	6-38
Nov. 12	MINNESOTA*	24-30
Nov. 19	at Carolina	7-27
Nov. 26	ATLANTA*	40-37
Nov. 30	N. Y. GIANTS	6-10
Dec. 9	at San Diego	25-28
Dec. 17	at Philadelphia	20-21
Dec. 25	DALLAS	13-37

Atlanta Falcons

Sept. 3	CAROLINA*	23-20
Sept. 10	at San Francisco	10-41
Sept. 17	at New Orleans*	27-24
Sept. 24	NEW YORK JETS	13-3
Oct. 1	NEW ENGLAND	30-17
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 12	at St. Louis	19-21
Oct. 22	at Tampa Bay	24-21
Oct. 29	DALLAS	13-28
Nov. 5	DETROIT	34-22
Nov. 12	at Buffalo	17-23
Nov. 19	ST. LOUIS	31-6
Nov. 26	at Arizona*	37-40
Dec. 3	at Miami	20-21
Dec. 10	NEW ORLEANS	19-14
Dec. 17	at Carolina	17-21
Dec. 24	SAN FRANCISCO	28-27

Carolina Panthers

Sept. 3	at Atlanta*	20-23
Sept. 10	at Buffalo	9-31
Sept. 17	ST. LOUIS	10-31
Sept. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	TAMPA BAY	13-20
Oct. 8	at Chicago	27-31
Oct. 15	NEW YORK JETS	26-15
Oct. 22	NEW ORLEANS	20-3
Oct. 29	at New England*	20-17
Nov. 5	at San Francisco	13-7
Nov. 12	at St. Louis	17-28
Nov. 19	ARIZONA	27-7
Nov. 26	at New Orleans	26-34
Dec. 3	INDIANAPOLIS	13-10
Dec. 10	SAN FRANCISCO	10-31
Dec. 17	ATLANTA	21-17
Dec. 24	at Washington	17-20

Chicago Bears

Sept. 3	MINNESOTA	31-14
Sept. 11	GREEN BAY	24-27
Sept. 17	at Tampa Bay	25-6
Sept. 24	at St. Louis	28-34
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	CAROLINA	31-27
Oct. 15	at Jacksonville	30-27
Oct. 22	HOUSTON	35-22
Oct. 30	at Minnesota	14-6
Nov. 5	PITTSBURGH*	34-37
Nov. 12	at Green Bay	28-35
Nov. 19	DETROIT	17-24
Nov. 26	at New York Giants	27-24
Dec. 4	at Detroit	7-27
Dec. 10	at Cincinnati	10-16
Dec. 17	TAMPA BAY	31-10
Dec. 24	PHILADELPHIA	20-14

Dallas Cowboys

Sept. 4	at New York Giants	35-0
Sept. 10	DENVER	31-21
Sept. 17	at Minnesota*	23-17
Sept. 24	ARIZONA	34-20
Oct. 1	at Washington	23-27
Oct. 8	GREEN BAY	34-24
Oct. 15	at San Diego	23-9
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at Atlanta	28-13
Nov. 6	PHILADELPHIA	34-12
Nov. 12	SAN FRANCISCO	20-38
Nov. 19	at Oakland	34-21
Nov. 23	KANSAS CITY	24-12
Dec. 3	WASHINGTON	17-24
Dec. 10	at Philadelphia	17-20
Dec. 17	NEW YORK GIANTS	21-20
Dec. 25	at Arizona	37-13

Detroit Lions

Sept. 3	at Pittsburgh	20-23
Sept. 10	at Minnesota	10-20
Sept. 17	ARIZONA	17-20
Sept. 25	SAN FRANCISCO	27-24
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	CLEVELAND	38-20
Oct. 15	at Green Bay	21-30
Oct. 22	at Washington*	30-36
Oct. 29	GREEN BAY	24-16
Nov. 5	at Atlanta	22-34
Nov. 12	TAMPA BAY	27-24
Nov. 19	at Chicago	24-17
Nov. 23	MINNESOTA	44-38
Dec. 4	CHICAGO	27-7
Dec. 10	at Houston	24-17
Dec. 17	JACKSONVILLE	44-0
Dec. 23	at Tampa Bay	37-10

Green Bay Packers

Sept. 3	ST. LOUIS	14-17
Sept. 11	at Chicago	27-24
Sept. 17	NEW YORK GIANTS	14-6
Sept. 24	at Jacksonville	24-14
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	at Dallas	24-34
Oct. 15	DETROIT	30-21
Oct. 22	MINNESOTA	38-21
Oct. 29	at Detroit	16-24
Nov. 5	at Minnesota	24-27
Nov. 12	CHICAGO	35-28
Nov. 19	at Cleveland	31-20
Nov. 26	TAMPA BAY	35-13
Dec. 3	CINCINNATI	24-10
Dec. 10	at Tampa Bay*	10-13
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	34-23
Dec. 24	PITTSBURGH	24-19

Minnesota Vikings

Sept. 3	at Chicago	14-31
Sept. 10	DETROIT	20-10
Sept. 17	DALLAS*	17-23
Sept. 24	at Pittsburgh	44-24
Oct. 1	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 8	HOUSTON*	23-17
Oct. 15	at Tampa Bay*	17-20
Oct. 22	at Green Bay	21-38
Oct. 30	CHICAGO	6-14
Nov. 5	GREEN BAY	27-24
Nov. 12	at Arizona*	30-24
Nov. 19	NEW ORLEANS	43-24
Nov. 23	at Detroit	38-44
Dec. 3	TAMPA BAY	31-17
Dec. 9	CLEVELAND	27-11
Dec. 18	at San Francisco	30-37
Dec. 24	at Cincinnati	24-27

New Orleans Saints

Sept. 3	SAN FRANCISCO	22-24
Sept. 10	at St. Louis	13-17
Sept. 17	ATLANTA*	24-27
Sept. 24	at New York Giants	29-45
Oct. 1	PHILADELPHIA	10-15
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	MIAMI	33-30
Oct. 22	at Carolina	3-20
Oct. 29	at San Francisco	11-7
Nov. 5	ST. LOUIS	19-10
Nov. 12	INDIANAPOLIS	17-14
Nov. 19	at Minnesota	24-43
Nov. 26	CAROLINA	34-26
Dec. 3	at New England	31-17
Dec. 10	at Atlanta	14-19
Dec. 16	GREEN BAY	23-34
Dec. 24	at New York Jets	12-0

New York Giants

Sept. 4	DALLAS	0-35
Sept. 10	at Kansas City*	17-20
Sept. 17	at Green Bay	6-14
Sept. 24	NEW ORLEANS	45-29
Oct. 1	at San Francisco	6-20
Oct. 8	ARIZONA*	27-21
Oct. 15	PHILADELPHIA	14-17
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	at Washington	24-15
Nov. 5	at Seattle	28-30
Nov. 12	OAKLAND	13-17
Nov. 19	at Philadelphia	19-28
Nov. 26	CHICAGO	24-27
Nov. 30	at Arizona	10-6
Dec. 10	WASHINGTON	20-13
Dec. 17	at Dallas	20-21
Dec. 23	SAN DIEGO	17-27

Philadelphia Eagles

Sept. 3	TAMPA BAY	6-21
Sept. 10	at Arizona	31-19
Sept. 17	SAN DIEGO	21-27
Sept. 24	at Oakland	17-48
Oct. 1	at New Orleans	15-10
Oct. 8	WASHINGTON*	37-34
Oct. 15	at New York Giants	17-14
Oct. 22	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 29	ST. LOUIS	20-9
Nov. 6	at Dallas	12-34
Nov. 12	DENVER	31-13
Nov. 19	NEW YORK GIANTS	28-19
Nov. 26	at Washington	14-7
Dec. 3	at Seattle	14-26
Dec. 10	DALLAS	20-17
Dec. 17	ARIZONA	21-20
Dec. 24	at Chicago	14-20

St. Louis Rams

Sept. 3	at Green Bay	17-14
Sept. 10	NEW ORLEANS	17-13
Sept. 17	at Carolina	31-10
Sept. 24	CHICAGO	34-28
Oct. 1	at Indianapolis	18-21
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 12	ATLANTA	21-19
Oct. 22	SAN FRANCISCO	10-44
Oct. 29	at Philadelphia	9-20
Nov. 5	at New Orleans	10-19
Nov. 12	CAROLINA	28-17
Nov. 19	at Atlanta	6-31
Nov. 26	at San Francisco	13-41
Dec. 3	at New York Jets	23-20
Dec. 10	BUFFALO	27-45
Dec. 17	WASHINGTON	23-35
Dec. 24	MIAMI	22-41

San Francisco 49ers

Sept. 3	at New Orleans	24-22
Sept. 10	ATLANTA	41-10
Sept. 17	NEW ENGLAND	28-3
Sept. 25	at Detroit	24-27
Oct. 1	NEW YORK GIANTS	20-6
Oct. 8	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	at Indianapolis	17-18
Oct. 22	at St. Louis	44-10
Oct. 29	NEW ORLEANS	7-11
Nov. 5	CAROLINA	7-13
Nov. 12	at Dallas	38-20
Nov. 20	at Miami	44-20
Nov. 26	ST. LOUIS	41-13
Dec. 3	BUFFALO	27-17
Dec. 10	at Carolina	31-10
Dec. 18	MINNESOTA	37-30
Dec. 24	at Atlanta	27-28

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Sept. 3	at Philadelphia	21-6
Sept. 10	at Cleveland	6-22
Sept. 17	CHICAGO	6-25
Sept. 24	WASHINGTON	14-6
Oct. 1	at Carolina	20-13
Oct. 8	CINCINNATI	19-16
Oct. 15	MINNESOTA*	20-17
Oct. 22	ATLANTA	21-24
Oct. 29	at Houston	7-19
Nov. 5	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 12	at Detroit	24-27
Nov. 19	JACKSONVILLE	17-16
Nov. 26	at Green Bay	13-35
Dec. 3	at Minnesota	17-31
Dec. 10	GREEN BAY*	13-10
Dec. 17	at Chicago	10-31
Dec. 23	DETROIT	10-37

Washington Redskins

Sept. 3	ARIZONA	27-7
Sept. 10	OAKLAND	8-20
Sept. 17	at Denver	31-38
Sept. 24	at Tampa Bay	6-14
Oct. 1	DALLAS	27-23
Oct. 8	at Philadelphia*	34-37
Oct. 15	at Arizona	20-24
Oct. 22	DETROIT*	36-30
Oct. 29	NEW YORK GIANTS	15-24
Nov. 5	at Kansas City	3-24
Nov. 12	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 19	SEATTLE	20-27
Nov. 26	PHILADELPHIA	7-14
Dec. 3	at Dallas	24-17
Dec. 10	at New York Giants	13-20
Dec. 17	at St. Louis	35-23
Dec. 24	CAROLINA	20-17

1995 NFC Standings

Eastern	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	435	291
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.615	318	338
Washington	6	10	0	.375	326	359
N. Y. Giants	5	11	0	.313	300	340
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	275	422
Central	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	404	314
Detroit	10	6	0	.625	436	336
Chicago	9	7	0	.563	392	360
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	412	385
Tampa Bay	7	9	0	.438	238	335
Western	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
San Francisco	11	5	0	.688	457	258
Atlanta	9	7	0	.563	362	349
St. Louis	7	9	0	.438	309	418
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	289	325
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	319	348

* Overtime

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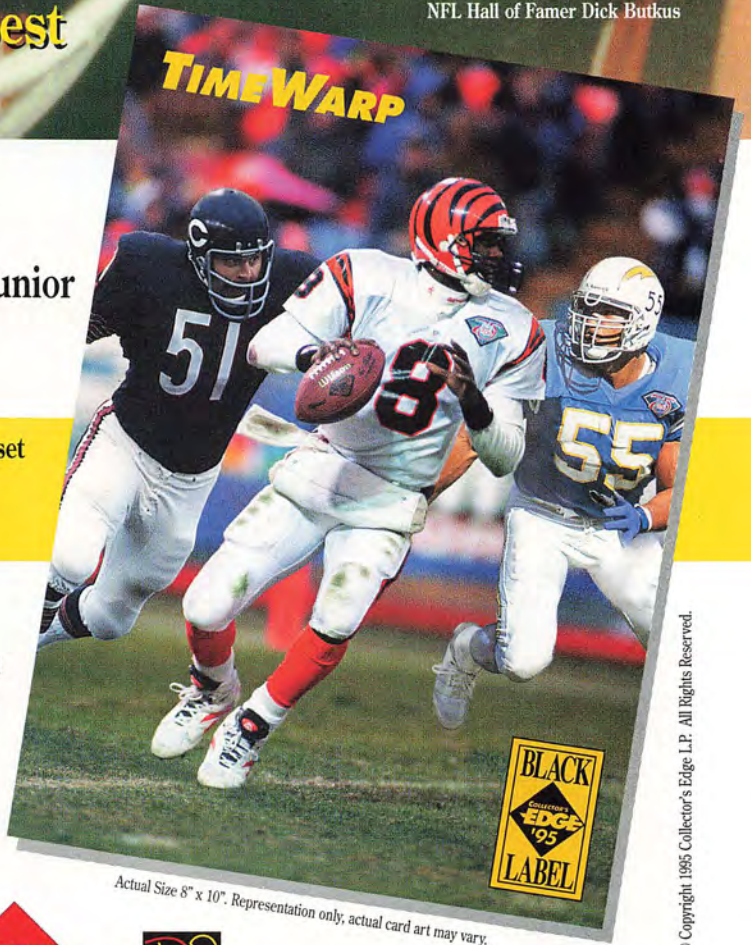

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1995 AFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 3	at Denver	7-22
Sept. 10	CAROLINA	31-9
Sept. 17	INDIANAPOLIS	20-14
Sept. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 2	at Cleveland	22-19
Oct. 8	NEW YORK JETS	29-10
Oct. 15	SEATTLE	27-21
Oct. 23	at New England	14-27
Oct. 29	at Miami	6-23
Nov. 5	at Indianapolis	16-10
Nov. 12	ATLANTA	23-17
Nov. 19	at New York Jets	28-26
Nov. 26	NEW ENGLAND	25-35
Dec. 3	at San Francisco	17-27
Dec. 10	at St. Louis	45-27
Dec. 17	MIAMI	23-20
Dec. 24	HOUSTON	17-28

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 3	at Indianapolis*	24-21
Sept. 10	JACKSONVILLE	24-17
Sept. 17	at Seattle	21-24
Sept. 24	HOUSTON	28-38
Oct. 1	MIAMI	23-26
Oct. 8	at Tampa Bay	16-19
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 19	at Pittsburgh	27-9
Oct. 29	CLEVELAND*	26-29
Nov. 5	OAKLAND	17-20
Nov. 12	at Houston	32-25
Nov. 19	PITTSBURGH	31-49
Nov. 26	at Jacksonville	17-13
Dec. 3	at Green Bay	10-24
Dec. 10	CHICAGO	16-10
Dec. 17	at Cleveland	10-26
Dec. 24	MINNESOTA	27-24

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 3	at New England	14-17
Sept. 10	TAMPA BAY	22-6
Sept. 17	at Houston	14-7
Sept. 24	KANSAS CITY	35-17
Oct. 2	BUFFALO	19-22
Oct. 8	at Detroit	20-38
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	JACKSONVILLE	15-23
Oct. 29	at Cincinnati*	29-26
Nov. 5	HOUSTON	10-37
Nov. 13	at Pittsburgh	3-20
Nov. 19	GREEN BAY	20-31
Nov. 26	PITTSBURGH	17-20
Dec. 3	at San Diego	13-31
Dec. 9	at Minnesota	11-27
Dec. 17	CINCINNATI	26-10
Dec. 24	at Jacksonville	21-24

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 3	BUFFALO	22-7
Sept. 10	at Dallas	21-31
Sept. 17	WASHINGTON	38-31
Sept. 24	at San Diego	6-17
Oct. 1	at Seattle	10-27
Oct. 8	at New England	37-3
Oct. 16	OAKLAND	27-0
Oct. 22	KANSAS CITY	7-21
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	ARIZONA	38-6
Nov. 12	at Philadelphia	13-31
Nov. 19	SAN DIEGO	30-27
Nov. 26	at Houston	33-42
Dec. 3	JACKSONVILLE	31-23
Dec. 10	SEATTLE	27-31
Dec. 17	at Kansas City	17-20
Dec. 24	at Oakland	31-28

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 3	at Jacksonville	10-3
Sept. 10	PITTSBURGH	17-34
Sept. 17	CLEVELAND	7-14
Sept. 24	at Cincinnati	38-28
Oct. 1	JACKSONVILLE	16-17
Oct. 8	at Minnesota*	17-23
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 22	at Chicago	32-35
Oct. 29	TAMPA BAY	19-7
Nov. 5	at Cleveland	37-10
Nov. 12	CINCINNATI	25-32
Nov. 19	at Kansas City	13-20
Nov. 26	DENVER	42-33
Dec. 3	at Pittsburgh	7-21
Dec. 10	DETROIT	17-24
Dec. 17	NEW YORK JETS	23-6
Dec. 24	at Buffalo	28-17

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 3	CINCINNATI*	21-24
Sept. 10	at New York Jets*	27-24
Sept. 17	at Buffalo	14-20
Sept. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	ST. LOUIS	21-18
Oct. 8	at Miami*	27-24
Oct. 15	SAN FRANCISCO	18-17
Oct. 22	at Oakland	17-30
Oct. 29	NEW YORK JETS	17-10
Nov. 5	BUFFALO	10-16
Nov. 12	at New Orleans	14-17
Nov. 19	at New England	24-10
Nov. 26	MIAMI	36-28
Dec. 3	at Carolina	10-13
Dec. 10	at Jacksonville	41-31
Dec. 17	SAN DIEGO	24-27
Dec. 23	NEW ENGLAND	10-7

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Sept. 3	HOUSTON	3-10
Sept. 10	at Cincinnati	17-24
Sept. 17	at New York Jets	10-27
Sept. 24	GREEN BAY	14-24
Oct. 1	at Houston	17-16
Oct. 8	PITTSBURGH	20-16
Oct. 15	CHICAGO	27-30
Oct. 22	at Cleveland	23-15
Oct. 29	at Pittsburgh	7-24
Nov. 5	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 12	SEATTLE	30-47
Nov. 19	at Tampa Bay	16-17
Nov. 26	CINCINNATI	13-17
Dec. 3	at Denver	23-31
Dec. 10	INDIANAPOLIS	31-41
Dec. 17	at Detroit	0-44
Dec. 24	CLEVELAND	24-21

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 3	at Seattle	34-10
Sept. 10	NEW YORK GIANTS*	20-17
Sept. 17	OAKLAND*	23-17
Sept. 24	at Cleveland	17-35
Oct. 1	at Arizona	24-3
Oct. 9	SAN DIEGO*	29-23
Oct. 15	NEW ENGLAND	31-26
Oct. 22	at Denver	21-7
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	WASHINGTON	24-3
Nov. 12	at San Diego	22-7
Nov. 19	HOUSTON	20-13
Nov. 23	at Dallas	12-24
Dec. 3	at Oakland	29-23
Dec. 11	at Miami	6-13
Dec. 17	DENVER	20-17
Dec. 24	SEATTLE	26-3

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 3	NEW YORK JETS	52-14
Sept. 10	at New England	20-3
Sept. 18	PITTSBURGH	23-10
Sept. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	at Cincinnati	26-23
Oct. 8	INDIANAPOLIS*	24-27
Oct. 15	at New Orleans	30-33
Oct. 22	at New York Jets	16-17
Oct. 29	BUFFALO	23-6
Nov. 5	at San Diego	24-14
Nov. 12	NEW ENGLAND	17-34
Nov. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	20-44
Nov. 26	at Indianapolis	28-36
Dec. 3	ATLANTA	21-20
Dec. 11	KANSAS CITY	13-6
Dec. 17	at Buffalo	20-23
Dec. 24	at St. Louis	41-22

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 3	CLEVELAND	17-14
Sept. 10	MIAMI	3-20
Sept. 17	at San Francisco	3-28
Sept. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	at Atlanta	17-30
Oct. 8	DENVER	3-37
Oct. 15	at Kansas City	26-31
Oct. 23	BUFFALO	27-14
Oct. 29	CAROLINA*	17-20
Nov. 5	at New York Jets	20-7
Nov. 12	at Miami	34-17
Nov. 19	INDIANAPOLIS	10-24
Nov. 26	at Buffalo	35-25
Dec. 3	NEW ORLEANS	17-31
Dec. 10	NEW YORK JETS	31-28
Dec. 16	at Pittsburgh	27-41
Dec. 23	at Indianapolis	7-10

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 3	at Miami	14-52
Sept. 10	INDIANAPOLIS*	24-27
Sept. 17	JACKSONVILLE	27-10
Sept. 24	at Atlanta	3-13
Oct. 1	OAKLAND	10-47
Oct. 8	at Buffalo	10-29
Oct. 15	at Carolina	15-26
Oct. 22	MIAMI	17-16
Oct. 29	at Indianapolis	10-17
Nov. 5	NEW ENGLAND	7-20
Nov. 12	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 19	BUFFALO	26-28
Nov. 26	at Seattle	16-10
Dec. 3	ST. LOUIS	20-23
Dec. 10	at New England	28-31
Dec. 17	at Houston	6-23
Dec. 24	NEW ORLEANS	0-12

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 3	SAN DIEGO	17-7
Sept. 10	at Washington	20-8
Sept. 17	at Kansas City*	17-23
Sept. 24	PHILADELPHIA	48-17
Oct. 1	at New York Jets	47-10
Oct. 8	SEATTLE	34-14
Oct. 16	at Denver	0-27
Oct. 22	INDIANAPOLIS	30-17
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	at Cincinnati	20-17
Nov. 12	at New York Giants	17-13
Nov. 19	DALLAS	21-34
Nov. 27	at San Diego	6-12
Dec. 3	KANSAS CITY	23-29
Dec. 10	PITTSBURGH	10-29
Dec. 17	at Seattle	10-44
Dec. 24	DENVER	28-31

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 3	DETROIT	23-20
Sept. 10	at Houston	34-17
Sept. 18	at Miami	10-23
Sept. 24	MINNESOTA	24-44
Oct. 1	SAN DIEGO	31-16
Oct. 8	at Jacksonville	16-20
Oct. 15	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 19	CINCINNATI	9-27
Oct. 29	JACKSONVILLE	24-7
Nov. 5	at Chicago*	37-34
Nov. 13	CLEVELAND	20-3
Nov. 19	at Cincinnati	49-31
Nov. 26	at Cleveland	20-17
Dec. 3	HOUSTON	21-7
Dec. 10	at Oakland	29-10
Dec. 16	NEW ENGLAND	41-27
Dec. 24	at Green Bay	19-24

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 3	at Oakland	7-17
Sept. 10	SEATTLE	14-10
Sept. 17	at Philadelphia	27-21
Sept. 24	DENVER	17-6
Oct. 1	at Pittsburgh	16-31
Oct. 9	at Kansas City*	23-29
Oct. 15	DALLAS	9-23
Oct. 22	at Seattle	35-25
Oct. 29	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 5	MIAMI	14-24
Nov. 12	KANSAS CITY	7-22
Nov. 19	at Denver	27-30
Nov. 27	OAKLAND	12-6
Dec. 3	CLEVELAND	31-13
Dec. 9	ARIZONA	28-25
Dec. 17	at Indianapolis	27-24
Dec. 23	at New York Giants	27-17

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 3	KANSAS CITY	10-34
Sept. 10	at San Diego	10-14
Sept. 17	CINCINNATI	24-21
Sept. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 1	DENVER	27-10
Oct. 8	at Oakland	14-34
Oct. 15	at Buffalo	21-27
Oct. 22	SAN DIEGO	25-35
Oct. 29	at Arizona*	14-20
Nov. 5	NEW YORK GIANTS	30-28
Nov. 12	at Jacksonville	47-30
Nov. 19	at Washington	27-20
Nov. 26	NEW YORK JETS	10-16
Dec. 3	PHILADELPHIA	26-14
Dec. 10	at Denver	37-21
Dec. 17	OAKLAND	44-10
Dec. 24	at Kansas City	3-26

1995 AFC STANDINGS

Eastern	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	350	335
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	331	316
Miami	9	7	0	.563	398	332
New England	6	10	0	.375	294	377
N.Y. Jets	3	13	0	.188	233	384
Central	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	407	327
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	349	374
Houston	7	9	0	.438	348	324
Cleveland	5	11	0	.313	289	356
Jacksonville	4	12	0	.250	275	404
Western	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	358	241
San Diego	9	7	0	.563	321	323
Denver	8	8	0	.500	388	345
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	363	366
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	348	332

* Overtime

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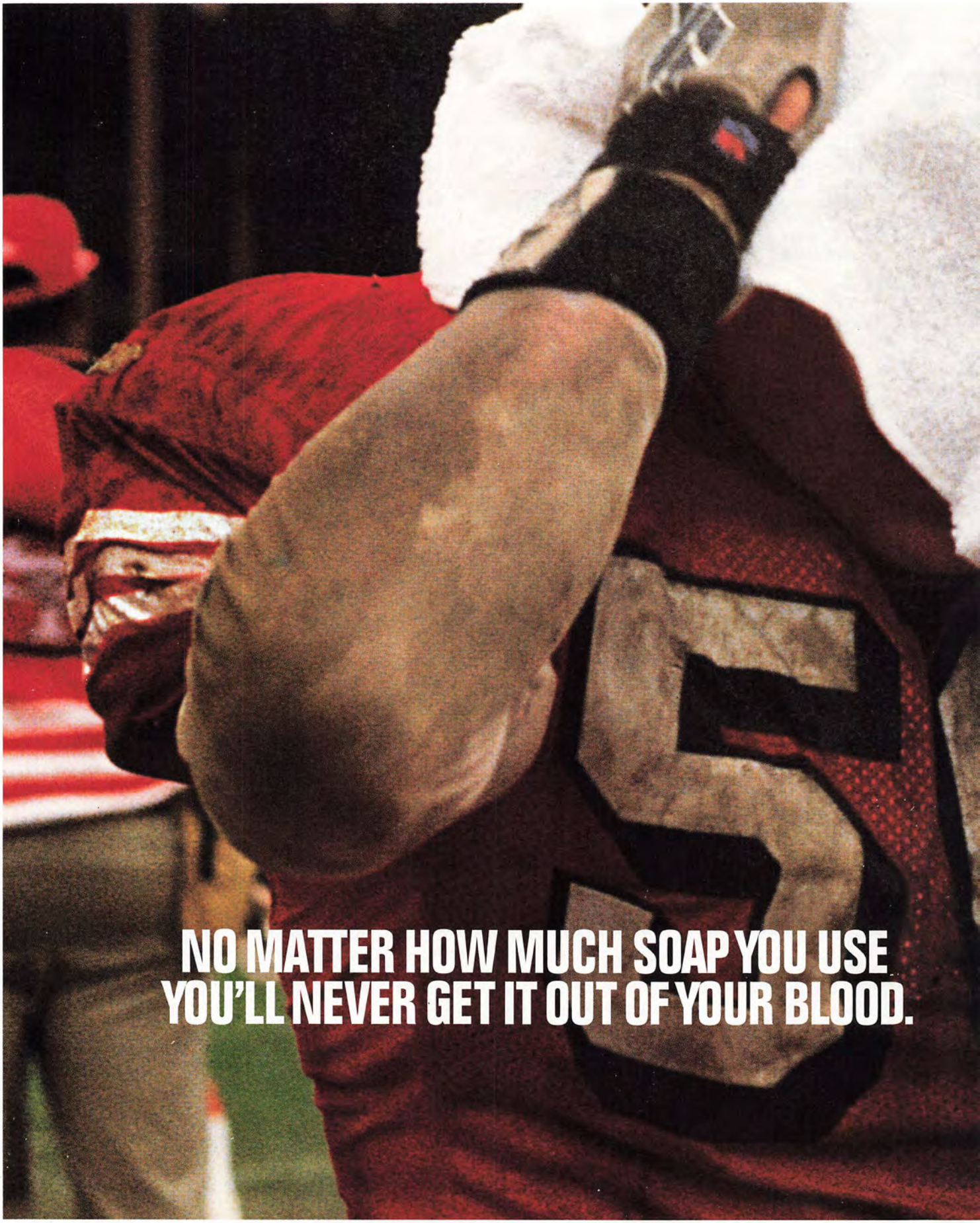

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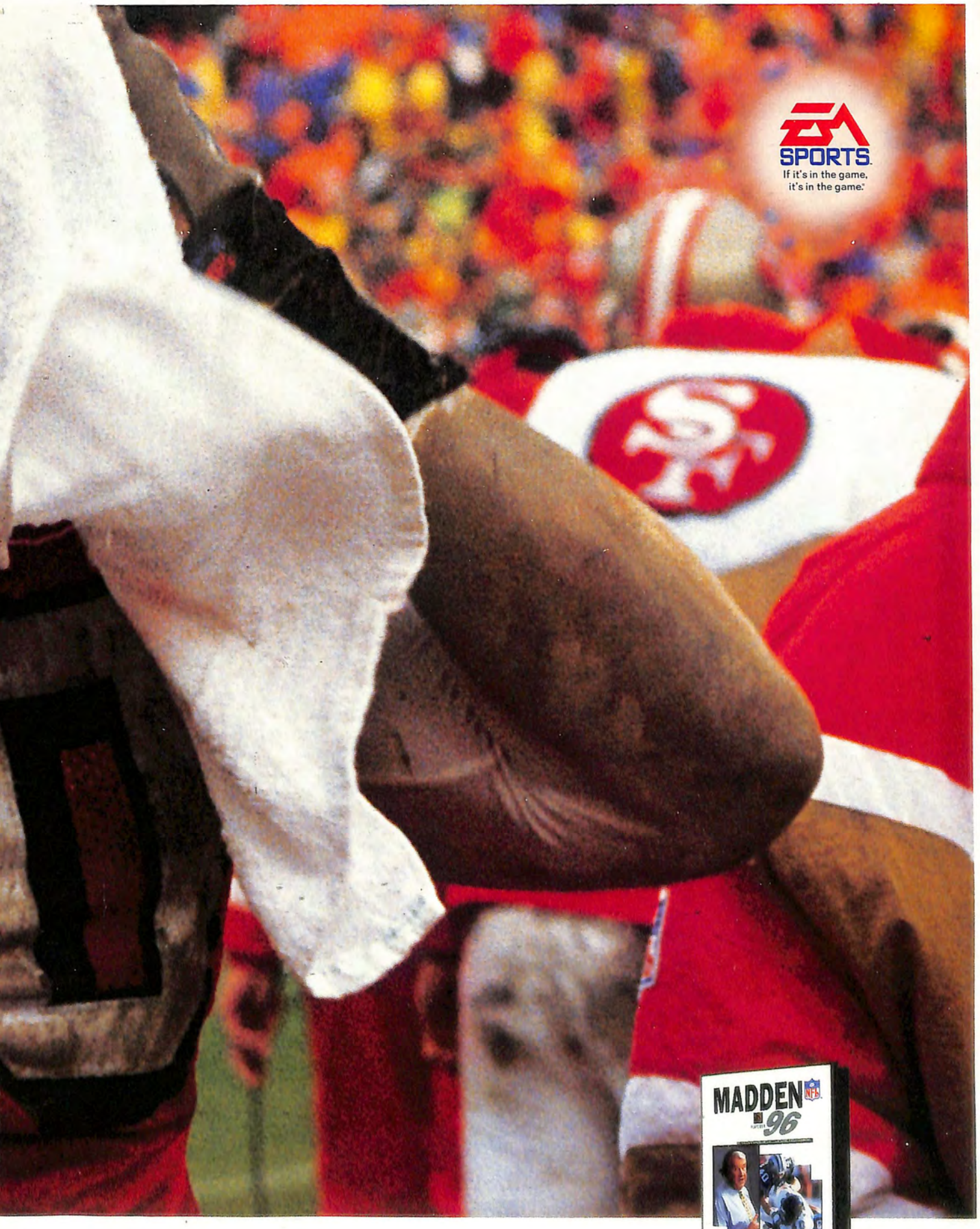

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